

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.17/17

Date: 27 November 2017

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: This updated briefing note provides Members with information following a further six month review of a parking scheme implemented in York Avenue, Gillingham

Background

Following a statutory consultation period, Pay & Display parking on the southern (hospital) side of York Avenue was introduced in September 2015, operating on Mondays –Fridays between 10am and 5pm. Prior to this, the Council had worked in partnership with the Medway Maritime Hospital to try to ease congestion in the vicinity of the site and make access easier for emergency vehicles, taxis and buses. The hospital alleviated some of their own parking pressures by encouraging staff to park in off-site locations, such as the Chatham historic dockyard, and providing a minibus service to bring them in to work.

Review of the scheme

Following implementation of the Pay & Display parking regime, Ward Members engaged with local residents, in writing and in person, to obtain their views on the scheme. Some residents expressed concerns that the parking signage was insufficient, and there were reports of noise and disturbance when the parking machines were emptied by the collection company. Other comments were made in relation to wider issues that were not specifically related to the scheme. It should also be noted that the Council received a formal complaint about the scheme and its impact on parking availability in York Avenue.

Officers made adhoc daytime visits to York Avenue and noted that between 15 and 20 spaces were available within the Pay & Display area. The scheme has had no impact on parking during the evenings and at weekends, as the new regime operates between 10am and 5pm on weekdays only. Officers have confirmed that the parking signage meets the legislative requirements.

Whilst the comments received by some local residents are noted, it is considered that the scheme should be retained.

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