



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Report to: Environmental Services Committee **Agenda Item: 4.5**

Report Title: Off Street Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan **(Paper E)**

Date: 5 April 2018

Report by: Director of Environment and Place

For Publication: Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

If 'not for publication', Insert reference to grounds upon which information is deemed 'confidential' [ref Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 section 42(2), (3)] or 'exempt' [ref Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 section 42(4) Schedule 6]:

(i) Confidential grounds: n/a

(ii) Exempt grounds: n/a

1. Relevant Background and Introduction

The Council's control of the Off Street Car Parking function commenced on 1 April 2015. In August 2017, the Council appointed AECOM to prepare an Off-Street Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2022) for the provision of Council-operated off-street parking across the District, after a competitive Tender process.

This report provides an update on the AECOM Commission for the FODC Car Park Strategy and Action Plan.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Scope of work

This scope of work involves:

Stage 1 – Preparation and Information Gathering – Completed and final report presented to Officers in November 2017.

Stage 2 – Analysis and Assessment – Completed and final report presented to Officers in December 2017.

Stage 3 & 4 – Strategy &
Action Plan

} Final Strategy & Action Plan to be presented to Council in March 2018.

2.2 Members Workshop on Final Strategy & Action Plan

On 7 March 2018, a final Member's Workshop was held in the Townhall, Enniskillen. At this, AECOM presented to those in attendance an overview of work carried out to date, as well as a synopsis of the pertinent points to be included in the Strategy and Action Plan.

Members raised a number of concerns in relation to the contents of the Strategy and Action Plan. Officers also raised concerns on the deliverability of the entire plan in the format it is presented. It was noted that AECOM are experts in the development of car parking strategies in the UK. This is their professional opinion. The Car Park Strategy should seek to ensure that parking:-

- Supports the local economy and balances the different needs of shoppers, tourists and businesses by ensuring good space availability and turnover, at an appropriate premium;
- Takes place in appropriate locations, depending on trip purpose;
- Helps to support sustainable transport and promote connectivity;
- Is safe and accessible to all;
- Enhances the natural and built environment; and
- Reflects good value for local ratepayers.

AECOM have proposed the following objectives for the Parking Strategy:-

1. Provide an appropriate level of parking to support economic vitality.
2. Ensure that parking is inclusive for all types of users.
3. Ensure that parking takes place in appropriate locations.
4. Ensure that car parking provision encourages sustainable commuter travel.
5. Ensure that parking provision supports tourism.
6. Support reductions in congestion and pollution and improve road safety.

As a result, AECOM have formulated an Action Plan based on these strategy objectives. It should be noted that some are considered to be more urgent than others and as such have a shorter / longer timeframe.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

N/A

3.2 Human Resources

N/A

3.3 Assets and Other Implications

N/A

4. Equality and Good Relations Implications

Affects all areas equally.

5. Sustainable Development Implications

N/A

6. Rural Proofing Implications

Affects all areas equally.

7. District Electoral Areas Affected

All.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Members note the Strategy and Action Plan prepared by AECOM and subject to agreement on the phased delivery of actions to meet the objectives as set out in the report attached in Appendix 1.

8.2 The Members note that the relevant Officers of the Council are to meet in April 2018, to formulate a proposed phased programme of actions. This will be presented to Members at the Environmental Services Committee Meeting on the 2 May 2018.

This phased approach is on the proviso that the Council will continuously monitor and review the situation, and if necessary move to implement further Actions, if the objectives set out above are not being met.

8.3 The Members note that the Draft Improvement Plan, approved by the Policy & Resources Committee, has included an improvement objective “We will support our local town centre economy by making it easier for residents and visitors to access car parking when visiting our key towns and service centres”. In order to meet this objective, some actions will have to be taken immediately.

9. Appendices and Attachments

Appendix 1 –Parking Strategy and Action Plan for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council prepared by AECOM.

10. Background Documents

None

Key to Abbreviations:

FODC: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council