

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 24th May 2007

**Report Title** Rugby Town Centre - Time Limited Parking Restrictions

**Summary** A request has been received from the Town Centre Company for the maximum parking period on some town centre streets to be increased from the existing 1 hour to 2 hours. This report discusses the background to the request and recommends that a proposal be advertised.

**For further information please contact** Roger Bennett  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** Petition

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  Rugby Area Committee – 22nd March 2007.

Local Member(s)  Councillor Ms K King - 'I fully support the extension of on-street parking in the decriminalised area from 1 hour to 2 hours. We need to ensure that the scheme is sensitive to Rugby's needs. I appreciate the hard work of Robin Richter, Town Centre Manager, in working closely with Rugby's businesses and representing the views and concerns to WCC on this issue and the WCC officers who appreciate these views and are keen to work together to look for solutions.'  
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor J Wells

Other Elected Members  .....

Cabinet Member  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Councillor M Heatley – for information.

Chief Executive

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Legal

I Marriott – agreed.

Finance

.....

Other Chief Officers

.....

District Councils

.....

Health Authority

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Police

.....

Other Bodies/Individuals

.....

**FINAL DECISION**

**YES/NO** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

Further consideration by this Committee

To consider objections or other adverse comments received following the public advertisement.

To Council

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To Cabinet

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To an O & S Committee

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To an Area Committee

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Further Consultation

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## Rugby Area Committee - 24th May 2007

### Rugby Town Centre - Time Limited Parking Restrictions

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

##### **Recommendation**

That a proposal for waiting limited to 2 hours, no return for 4hours, 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday, with the charges being 20p for half an hour, £1 for an hour and £1.50p for 2 hours, in Albert Street, Bank Street, Henry Street, Railway Terrace, Regent Place and Regent Street, Rugby be advertised.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the meeting of this Committee on 22nd March Members requested a report on a request from the Town Centre Company (TCC) for the maximum parking period on some town centre streets to be increased from the existing 1 hour to 2 hours.
- 1.2 This report discusses the background to the request and recommends that a proposal be advertised.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement (DPE) was introduced in Rugby Borough in October 2006 and on-street pay and display arrangements were introduced at that time in some town centre streets. The cost of on-street parking was set a level higher than in the off-street car parks. This was designed to reduce the amount of traffic circulating around the town centre by encouraging drivers to park off-street as their first choice. However, a relatively cheap tariff for on-street parking for up to half an hour was introduced to provide a facility for those people who need to carry out short visits.
- 2.2. Prior to the introduction of DPE the parking restriction in the town centre was for 1 hour, with no return for 1 hour, 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Apart from the introduction of pay and display arrangements the only other change that was made in October 2006 was to increase the return period in Rugby town centre from 1 hour to 2 hours. This is the standard return period that now normally applies with time limited waiting restrictions and is designed to assist with more efficient enforcement.

- 2.3. A petition with 178 signatories has been received via the Rugby Town Centre Company (RTCC). The petition reads:-

*"We the undersigned who are businesses within the decriminalised parking area would earnestly ask Warwickshire County Council to allow an extension of one to two hours of on-street parking in the decrim area. Our businesses have been badly affected and we would really appreciate the County's support on this issue".*

- 2.4. Discussions with the RTCC Managing Director have confirmed that the request is for the maximum period of stay in Albert Street, Bank Street, Henry Street, Railway Terrace, Regent Place and Regent Street to be increased from 1 hour to 2 hours. The TCC considers that the current 1 hour limit often provides insufficient time for customers to carry out their business and that allowing a maximum stay of 2 hours will help to improve the economic viability of the town centre.
- 2.5. The RTCC has also carried out an on-street survey in the town centre. 200 people were asked "Given a choice would you prefer the existing maximum stay of 1 hour for £1 to remain or a 2 hour maximum stay with a charge of £1.50p?". 182 people opted for the maximum stay to be 2 hours.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. Most of the streets in the central areas of town centres in Warwickshire have a maximum stay of either half an hour or 1 hour with longer stay demand being met by off-street car parks. Longer stays are also generally permitted in streets on the periphery of the town centres although this is not the case in Rugby.
- 3.2. A maximum period of stay of 1 hour is normally considered to be in the best interests of the commercial viability of the town centres in that it creates adequate turn over of on-street parking for customers throughout the day. However, in view of the apparent support from the business community for increasing the maximum period of stay to 2 hours it is recommended that formal consultations be carried out and that a proposal be advertised. A further report will be presented to Rugby Area Committee if any adverse comments or objections are received.

JOHN DEEGAN  
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9th May 2007