



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
26 JANUARY 2023

**SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP – OPERATIONAL RESERVE - PARKING
PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Member approval to progress an application for utilising part of the Operational Reserve of £186,000 from the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) for three parking projects, at section 3.7 below.
- 1.2 The Operational Reserve use is restricted to expenditure which falls within Section 55 of the Road Traffic Act 1984;
“all or any part of the cost of the provision and maintenance by the local authority of parking accommodation for vehicles otherwise than on highways, roads, and whether in the open or under cover”

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the three projects detailed at section 3.7 below are supported, and an application is submitted to the South Essex Parking Partnership to utilise the Operational Reserve to fund these projects, all of which fall within Section 55 of the Road Traffic Act 1984.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Responsibility for Enforcement of On Street parking was passed to Essex County Council in 2011. Since that date it has been discharged through two partnerships, South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) and North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). Maldon is part of SEPP.
- 3.2 SEPP is governed by a Joint Committee Agreement signed up to by each of the partners – Basildon Borough Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Maldon District Council, Rochford District Council, Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council (the Lead Authority), and this agreement was renewed in April 2022.
- 3.3 The Council has both Officer and Member representation on the SEPP Joint Committee.
- 3.4 The partnership has been extremely success, generating additional investment in On Street parking, as well as an operational reserve (surplus) which can be used to fund local parking projects that fall within Section 55 of the Road Traffic Act 1984.

- 3.5 The current surplus, up to 31 March 2022 which is available for Maldon District Council to apply to use is £186,00. This reserve does not have to be used in the current financial year and is subject to proposals being submitted and validated by the SEPP Joint Committee.
- 3.6 The balance of Maldon's share of the operational reserve would remain available to access for any further / future projects.
- 3.7 Members are asked to support three initial projects as follows:

Repairs to car park surfaces at Butt Lane and White Horse	£137,500
Feasibility study for a potential additional Car Park	£28,000
Delivery of a Car Park Charging Strategy	£7,200
Total operational reserve to be requested from SEPP	£172,700

- 3.8 If Members support these proposals an application to release funds would be made to the next SEPP Joint Committee on 16 March 2023.
- 3.9 Management of the projects would be through our normal project management processes.

4. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 4.1 Membership of the Parking Partnership supports and enhance the council's vision to "Protect and improve the environment for residents and visitors, alongside sustainable growth and new infrastructure".

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The use of the SEPP Operational Reserve will help to maintain our current Carparks, whilst investigating opportunities for further carparking facilities.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – All projects will be appropriately risk managed.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The use of the operational reserve to fund these car parking focused projects will provide additional income to Maldon District Council (MDC), whilst also enabling the Council the ability to redirect capital funding to deliver on other capital Council priority projects.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – All projects will be delivered within existing resources.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – Working in partnership with Essex County Council and SEPP enables the Council to have a voice and influence decisions made about on street parking, restrictions, resident zones, and issues which arise. It enables the council to consult and represent the needs of residents, businesses, schools, and visitors, providing a safe place to live, work and enjoy.

Background Papers: None.

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