

**Consideration of works to amalgamate and extend Medway
Street Car Park**

Timetable	
Meeting	Date
Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee	8 November 2023
Cabinet Member for Planning Infrastructure and Economic Development	9 November 2023 (tbc)

Will this be a Key Decision?	No
Urgency	Not Applicable
Final Decision-Maker	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development
Lead Head of Service	Katie Exon
Lead Officer and Report Author	Katie Exon – Head of Property and Leisure. report.
Classification	Public
Wards affected	High Street

Executive Summary

Report to consider the proposal to extend and carry out refurbishment and improvement works to Medway street car park, Maidstone.

This matter is to be considered by the Advisory Committee before being passed to the Cabinet.

Purpose of Report

Recommendation to Cabinet Member

This report makes the following recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development; That

1. The funding works to amalgamate and extend the car park at an estimated total budget of £177,500, be approved; and
 2. An Additional £20,000 for provision of green bike store and electric car sharing scheme points (if not externally funded in whole or part), be agreed.
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1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure • Safe, Clean and Green • Homes and Communities • A Thriving Place • Accepting the recommendations will materially improve the Council's ability to achieve Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure 	Head of property and Leisure.
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage is Respected • Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced • Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved • Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected. <p>The report recommendation(s) supports the achievement(s) of the cross cutting objectives.</p>	Head of property and leisure
Risk Management	Please refer to risk paragraph in the report	Head of Property and leisure
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting the recommendations will demand new spending of £177,500. We plan to fund that spending as set out in section 3 	Section 151 Officer Mark Green

Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing. 	Head of property and leisure
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting on the recommendations is within the Council's powers. 	Legal Services
Information Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations do not impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council Processes. 	Information Governance Team
Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment 	Head of property and leisure
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise that the recommendations will not negatively impact on population health or that of individuals. 	Head of property and leisure
Crime and Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no implications to Crime and Disorder The scheme will incorporate low level lighting throughout the car park which we consider will improve the comfort and safety of those using the car park. 	Head of Property and Leisure
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On accepting the recommendations, the Council will then follow procurement exercises for tendering of works. We will complete those exercises in line with financial procedure rules. 	Head of Property and Leisure & Section 151 Officer
Biodiversity and Climate Change	<p>The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no implications on biodiversity and climate change. 	James Wilderspin

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Borough Council own both the public pay and display car park, located at Medway Street and the adjacent car park (currently not within the car

parking order). Although adjacent, there are significant differences in the site levels.

- 2.2 This report sets out a proposal to amalgamate both sites creating an extended Medway Street public pay and display car park. The report details the works and costs involved in doing so.
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3. SCHEME OF WORKS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

- 3.1 As outlined, there are significant level differences between the sites, to amalgamate the sites a vehicular ramp would need to be constructed. The extension area currently has a surface that is below the standard expected and required to be used as a public car park, both areas would require resurfacing and relining as part of the proposed works. To comply and make the car park an attractive offer to park, a low-level lighting scheme would need to be installed. In addition to these works, it would be prudent to carry out some repairs and improvements to the site boundaries, install additional pay and display metres and new signage. Should this proposal proceed, on safety grounds the existing access onto the High Street would require "stopping up" and a bollard or barrier installed.
- 3.2 The required works can be broken down into stages. The first area of work concerns topography site surveys, drainage surveys, lighting survey, drawings, investigation, detailed design work and proposed layout. **The cost of stage 1 is quoted as £14,500.**
- 3.3 Assuming the initial site surveys show that the amalgamation of the sites is indeed possible we have received quotes for the full works, which include - creation of a ramp, boundary repair and renewal, resurface, reline, installation of lighting, installation of additional pay and display machines, installation of bike racks (secure) new signage, stopping up of access to High Street. **The cost of stage 2 is quoted as £160,000**; this is on the assumption that the preceding survey works do not result in additional works being required to the site. An example of this would be upgrades or repairs to drainage systems that run beneath the site, or relocation of services.
- 3.4 To further the Councils carbon neutral agenda, there is an opportunity to provide a green roof bike store and electric charging points to operate an electric car sharing scheme. It is hoped that this work could be funded from external grants or operators, however if the Council were to fully fund this element an **additional £20,000** should be allowed for.
- 3.5 The final stage of works is to bring the car park in its entirety to be within the car parking order, which is a legal requirement for the Council to be able to treat and use as a public car park. **The cost of stage 3 is estimated to be £3,000.**
- 3.6 There are some existing rights for third parties to park and enjoy access over the site, however it is felt that these existing rights can be accommodated within the proposals and will not frustrate the project.

- 3.7 A further consideration to cost will be the annual costs for the required additional pay and display machines (software licences, annual maintenance, electricity and back-office work) **Estimated at £3,000 pa**
- 3.8 The current pay and display car park provides 60 spaces, the extension land currently provides 23 spaces. There will be some loss of spaces to accommodate the installation of the ramp and the proposed bike store.

Therefore, subject to detailed design, it is believed that this project will on completion provide a minimum of 73 spaces in total.

1. It is important that Medway Street (new) car park remains a short stay car park (maximum stay 4 hours). This increases bay turnover and efficiency and therefore income. It is believed that if extended Medway Street car park will continue to enjoy a good rate of occupancy, if the current Medway Street occupancy rates are matched, we can expect an additional income of £3,790 per bay per annum, (13 x £3,970 is £49,270. This is an annual return of 28% on our capital outlay of £177.5K, so is comfortably in excess of the Council's minimum required rate of return of 5%. Members should also be aware that during the construction phase, the carpark in its entirety will not be available. This will result in a loss of income during the estimated construction phase (3 months). However, it is felt that regular users will be displaced into another Council operated car park, and so the actual financial loss to the council will be kept at a minimum. The new car park will attract an additional cost in respect of business rates, £8,000 pa.
- 3.9 However, the unknown factor to consider is where will the additional users come from? There is currently adequate number of car parking spaces within the centre town location to satisfy demand, with no new shops or entertainment to create an additional demand for spaces outside of seasonal variations. There is a chance that the new car park may attract some customers from The Fremlin complex, which would increase new income, however it is proven that drivers always park as close to their destination as possible, and so new custom from the Fremlin complex cannot be relied upon to create additional income. If we do achieve additional custom to the new extended car park, members need to consider that the new custom is more likely to come from drivers being displaced from one of our other town centre car parks, and therefore we are moving income A to income B and not generating significant new money and making a difference to our income stream.

4. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Approve funding for the works to amalgamate and extend the car park at an estimated total budget of £177,500. (plus allowance for funding of green initiatives as outlined)
- 4.2 Carry out some minor improvement works to the additional land – surface and boundaries – estimated cost £40,000. To hopefully attract through marketing, a private tenant to utilise the site for their own parking need. Members should note that the site has previously been let on agreement to

local businesses for staff parking, however the tenant bought the agreement to an end as they no longer required the facility.

- 4.3 Do not proceed with the proposed project, secure the site against unauthorised use and activity, reconsider when there is a clear demand for additional town centre car parking.

5. RISK

- 5.1 Members need to consider that there is a risk that the monies spent in amalgamating the car parks may not be recovered in additional demand for new parking.

6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Local Ward Members have been consulted on the proposal. Any comments received will be updated verbally at the meeting.

7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

PAC	08/11/23	
Cabinet	22/11/23	
Site Surveys	December	Dependant on availability and weather constraints
Design of scheme	January	Dependant on survey results
Let Contract / Procurement	February	
Start on site	March / April	We are finding delays with availability of all construction material at present
Completion	July	Dependant on construct

8. REPORT APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: site Plan
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