



Walsall Area Partnerships

Report to Darlaston and Bentley Area Panel

Participatory Budgeting within Area Partnerships

12, November 2013

1. Context

- 1.1 Through Cabinet on 22 April, 2013 and Council on 22 May 2013 seven proposals for devolution discussed in a report on "Devolution Through Area Partnerships" were approved. The agreed proposals, seek to further develop the Area Partnership model. This report further considers one of those proposals, Participatory Budgeting (PB), as it moves towards the phases of design and implementation, with respect to an opportunity to apply PB to the issue of verge parking.
- 1.2 At its meeting 16 September 2013, the Area Panel agreed to consult with the community and elected members regarding the identification of possible verge parking sites. This information will then be shortlisted and presented back to the panel at its November 2013 meeting, for agreement around public consultation and voting for the scheme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Area Panel meeting is recommended to note the progress to date in relation to Participatory Budgeting through the Area Partnership structure.
- 2.2 The Area Panel views on the identified verge parking schemes as set out in table 1.
- 2.3 The Area Panel agree to consult and vote as detailed in the report for short listed verge parking sites in Darlaston and Bentley, schemes are identified in table 1.

3. Background to Participatory Budgeting

- 3.1 PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a specifically identified public budget. This is through the engagement of residents and the community to discuss spending priorities, making and voting on proposals, as well as opening up to the public a role in scrutiny and monitoring of the process.
- 3.2 Across the Walsall Borough we are focusing our initial PB process on issues around cleaner and greener services and highway maintenance, including verge parking. There will be a number of opportunities for the public to become involved in influencing and determining



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how and when services are delivered. There will be a variety of opportunities to engage, including consultation and engagement, internet, social media, etc.

- 3.3 Noting the above, this report is seeking to take forward a PB initiative focussing on verge parking in Walsall, with further updates to inform on work towards Highways and Cleaner and Greener PB exercises reserved for a later date.

4. Participatory Budgeting - Verge Parking

- 4.1 For financial year 2013 - 14, there is a borough-wide allocation of £250,000 for verge parking schemes, providing additional parking spaces. If devolved to each Area Partnership on an equal basis this provides an indicative budget of £41,600 per Area Partnership, this will be dependent on what proposals are put forward and will include design, supervision and associated planning costs. If any further funding is identified by the Area Partnership Panel, it is possible to add this to the allocated verge parking funding for your area to include this within the overall scheme costs.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the PB exercises in each Area Partnership, will inform residents of what budget / resources they are able to have an influence on, presenting a variety of verge parking schemes that have previously been suggested through a range of routes (including requests from members of the public), a comprehensive list of all known potentially viable verge parking schemes (which are provided by the Council's Road Traffic Network Service Team, including the exact location of proposed schemes detailed in section 5), the number of additional parking spaces it would provide, an estimate of financial cost and a brief outline of the scheme.
- 4.3 Over a minimum two week period, utilising a range of media (e-mail, attendance at events, social media, internet etc), residents will be asked to "vote" / indicate their preferred schemes. The Area Partnership team, in partnership with the Engineering and Transportation Service, will produce a range of documents to support the process and will undertake the engagement and consultation in each area. This will provide the community with the opportunity to view and understand potential verge parking schemes prior to "voting". As part of this work there will be a "vote and count" event, which will provide a final opportunity for residents that haven't "voted" to do so and for all "votes" built up over the period and at this session to be counted.
- 4.3.1 During the consultation and engagement process, where any new / additional schemes are proposed the community will be informed that a previous consultation took place to identify schemes and it is not possible to include new schemes at this time, however they will be considered for future verge parking participatory budgeting exercises should they take place.



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- 4.4 The results of the "vote" will go to the next appropriate Area Panel for ratification, as appropriate. This may also involve, where agreed with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Panel, a special meeting of the Panel being convened.
- 4.5 The prioritised verge parking schemes will then be subject to the necessary in-depth checks to consider issues such as ground conditions, proximity to services, (eg, gas, water, utilities), any relevant / required permissions, etc, and that the scheme is fully viable.
- 4.6 Following the prioritisation and viability checks, the finalised schemes will be confirmed and work should commence early 2014. This is subject to planning permission and land owner permission.
- 4.7 Through the learning from undertaking this pilot, it will inform how we undertake PB to influence and inform expenditure during 2014 / 15, to provide a improved process for PB to inform local priorities, within the Clean and Green service area, focusing on street cleansing and grounds maintenance, and Highways Maintenance, focussing on road safety and maintenance.
- 4.8 It should be noted that these pilots will run alongside a set of core services that the Council undertakes to ensure the Authority meets its obligations to local communities.

5. Participatory Budgeting - Verge Parking in Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership

- 5.1 The Area Panel is requested to consider the process detailed in section 4 of above and identify local variations where necessary.
- 5.2 Detailed at Table 2 is a list of identified verge parking schemes in the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership;

Table 2.

Location	Ward	Spaces provided
Bull Lane	Darlaston South	Approximately 5-6
Edinburgh Avenue	Darlaston North and Bentley	Approximately 5-6
Hawthorne Place	Darlaston North and Bentley	Approximately 5-6
Moxley Road	Darlaston South	Approximately 5-6
Rowlands Avenue	Darlaston North and Bentley	Approximately 5-6
Victory Avenue	Darlaston South	Approximately 5-6

- 5.3 The Area Panel can view the location of the identified scheme attached at appendix 1.



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- 5.4 The Area Panel is asked, having viewed their potential list of sites, to agree to consult and vote on the shortlisted schemes detailed in table 1, and attached at appendix 1

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