



Walsall Area Partnerships

Report to Darlaston and Bentley Area Panel

Participatory Budgeting within Area Partnerships

16, December 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 the Darlaston and Bentley Area Panel meeting 12, November 2013, the proposed process and model for participatory budgeting - verge parking was considered, it was agreed that the panel would receive a report to its next meeting to consider a shortlist of potentially viable verge parking schemes for public consultation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Area Panel meeting is recommended to note the comments from the consultation around Verge Parking in the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership, to be provided at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Area Panel is requested to confirm the prioritised verge parking scheme to be taken forward for the necessary in-depth checks prior to implementation in early 2014.

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

- 3.1 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 include design, supervision and associated planning costs.
- 3.2 Throughout the period 12 November – 16, December 2013, utilising a range of media (e-mail, attendance at events, social media, internet etc), residents were asked to indicate their preferred schemes. The Area Partnership team, in partnership with the Engineering and Transportation Service, produced a range of documents to support the process and have undertaken engagement and consultation in each area. This provided the community with



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the opportunity to view and understand potential verge parking schemes prior to indicating their preference and sharing their opinions.

3.3 Officers provided a copy of the proposed scheme and covering details explaining how to become involved in the consultation to residents in the immediate location of proposed verge parking schemes, deliveries to these addresses were made early into the consultation to enable people sufficient opportunity to participate in the process.

3.4 Officers provided drop in sessions for the community at the following times and locations, see table 1;

Table 1.

Date	Time	Location
19, November 2013	10.00-12.00	Bentley Community Hub
25, November 2013	12.00-15.00	Bentley Leisure Pavillion
26, November 2013	10.00-12.00	Bentley Community Hub
26, November 2013	16.00-18.00	Darlaston Leisure Centre
27, November 2013	10.00-12.00	Moxley Peoples Centre
29, November 2013	10.00-12.00	Darlaston Library

3.5 The outcome of the consultation will be presented to the Area Panel, on the evening of the meeting. The panel are recommended prior to the close of the meeting to confirm their prioritised schemes from the list of those schemes consulted upon for officers to progress with a full viability assessment.

3.6 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.

3.7 Following the prioritisation and viability checks, the finalised scheme will be confirmed and work should commence early 2014. This is subject to planning permission and land owner permission.

3.8 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.

4. Short Listed Verge Parking Schemes in Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership

4.1 The Area Panel is requested to note the comments provided in relation to the shortlisted schemes below, these will be provided at the start of the meeting as consultation closes immediately prior to the meeting. We are unable to provide this information as part of this



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information due to the voting and information gathering process which will be running until the meeting commences.

- 4.2 Detailed at Table 2 is a list of identified verge parking schemes in the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership;

Table 2.

Location
Bull Lane
Edinburgh Avenue
Hawthorn Place
Moxley Road
Rowlands Avenue
Victory Avenue

- 4.3 The Area Panel can view the location of the shortlisted schemes attached at appendix 1.
- 4.4 The Area Panel is requested to agree the prioritised verge parking schemes to be presented for a full viability assessment, it is anticipated the successful scheme will be implemented in early 2014.

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