

8 July 2020

Report of	Assistant Director for Environment	Author	Jason Butcher ☎ 282901
Title	Request for Delegated Authority for the Award of Contract for Parking Bay Sensors		
Wards affected	All wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The North Essex Parking Partnership has been exploring technologies which will help provide more efficient ways of carrying out its parking enforcement duties, whilst seeking to provide a service to motorists using the public highway. Parking bay sensors is a technology that has been predominantly used in car parks, however the benefits can be extended for use in an on-street environment.
- 1.2 Benefits include improved enforcement accuracy; the ability to gather data that is otherwise difficult to collect and being able to display parking bay availability to motorists online or through a smartphone app.
- 1.3 A contract proposal from Essex Highways and Ringway Jacobs is being finalised however it is clear that the full-life contract value will exceed £500,000.
- 1.4 The report seeks delegation of powers to the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety to approve the award of this contract to avoid further delay in the implementation of this scheme.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety for the award of the contract set out in this report, for the supply, installation and maintenance of parking bay sensors at various locations in Colchester and Clacton.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Initial funding for this project, which is coming from the North Essex Parking Partnership surplus funds, was approved by the Joint Parking Committee in January 2020.
- 3.2 We are unable to bring the decision to this meeting of Cabinet as there are more details to be finalised with Essex Highways. Traffic management will be a requirement and it is expected that being able to award this contract and to proceed with the project as quickly as possible will be beneficial in the current climate.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to delegate the powers requested as this would delay the decision and impact the ability to commence the scheme. The time/benefit balance would therefore suggest that delegation to the Portfolio Holder would be more effective and efficient use of Council resources, without introducing risks.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 Colchester Borough Council is the lead authority for the North Essex Parking Partnership. As such it has the responsibility for all contractual arrangements that facilitate on-street parking-related traffic management as delegated to it by Essex County Council. This Partnership, for the benefit of this request, includes Tendring District Council.
- 5.2 A Joint Parking Committee governs the Partnership and meets quarterly, making required decisions affecting the strategies and policies as required.
- 5.3 The Partnership has built up a surplus fund since it was formed in 2011 and the Joint Parking Committee has approved several projects in order to make use of this surplus. This includes the bay sensor pilot scheme to cover various locations in Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea.
- 5.4 Essex Highways, facilitated by their contract with Ringway Jacobs, are due to submit a proposal to CBC for the delivery of this project. This would include project management, traffic management, supply and maintenance of bay sensors.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Implications for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights will be considered in all contract awards.
- 6.2 The bay sensor system will be installed in Blue Badge Holder bays and this will enable customers to locate and check the possible availability of parking bays before they leave. This will help reduce the time needed in finding parking spaces and would seek to reduce possible congestion and improve air quality through reducing unnecessary journeys.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 This decision is part of delivering against responsibility and wellbeing priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-21:
 - Growth - Help make sure Colchester is a welcoming place for all residents and visitors

8. Consultation

- 8.1 No consultation is planned.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 Communication with affected residents and businesses prior to works taking place will be necessary.
- 9.2 Parking bay suspensions will be necessary and will be advertised according to the required procedures, 10 days prior to works taking place.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 The budget to support this project was agreed by the Joint Parking Committee in January 2020. Additional revenue budget will be used to further support the project in years 2 to 5 and the resource savings this will facilitate will ensure this is financially viable for the Partnership.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 It is broadly expected that communities where these works will take place will be positively affected by the completion of the works. Businesses may be aided through the increased turnover of customers as parking will be better managed.
- 11.2 Blue badge holders should be able to find parking more easily and the increased turnover in spaces through better enforcement should assist in this.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 Ringway Jacobs and Essex Highways demonstrate a strong track record of adhering to health and safety legislation. The proposed works include traffic management which will be designed to mitigate any risk to motorists or pedestrians whilst works take place.

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 None expected.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 Sensors will assist journey planning of residents, visitors and businesses. It is hoped that journey times and congestion on roads will reduce as availability of some parking spaces will be available online and through a smartphone app.