

**DECENT & AFFORDABLE HOMES PDG
26 JANUARY 2016**

CAR PARK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cabinet Member Cllr Ray Stanley
Responsible Officer Housing Services Manager

Reason for Report: To review the Car Park Management Policy.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Cabinet approves the revised Car Park Management Policy.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The Council must run the Housing Service efficiently and effectively in accordance with legislative requirements and the provisions of the regulatory framework.

Financial Implications: Neighbour disputes relating to car parking issues can be problematic and may be time-consuming. The provision of an up-dated policy relating to car park management should reduce the amount of time officers spend on managing such issues.

Legal Implications: Having a clearly defined policy ensures fairness and consistency of approach.

Risk Assessment: Failure to provide housing management staff with policies to use in the course of their day to day activities could result in a less consistent and effective service.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The review of this policy reflects changes in good practice and legislative changes. It will provide a framework for staff which sets out how they should respond to queries and tackle management issues where enforcement is required.
- 1.2 The Council does not have a statutory obligation to make provision for car parking. However, the provision of parking facilities helps to reduce congestion on roads and estates. Parking problems in residential areas can cause great concern to residents and can lead to neighbourhood disputes. The quality of life for residents can be improved if car parking is managed.
- 1.3 The Car Park Management Policy was adopted at the meeting of the Decent and Affordable Homes Policy Development Group in June 2011. The policy was due to be reviewed by May 2015. Conflicting priorities have delayed this work.
- 1.4 Tenants Together approved the draft Car Park Management Policy at their meeting on 10 December 2015.

1.5 Members are asked to consider the proposed changes and to agree the adoption of the reviewed policy.

2.0 Proposed policy changes

2.1 The policy has been reviewed and a number of minor changes have been made.

2.2 The layout of the policy has been changed to give greater clarity. More information on the responsibilities of both the Council and those of residents has been added. For example, the policy confirms our commitment to removing offensive graffiti within one working day of being notified. In addition, it also states that residents should not use Council land for the purpose of accommodation or for criminal activities.

2.3 Additional definitions have been added to section four; who we consider to be a resident, for example Council tenant, private tenant or lodger, also Council property to explain that we consider this to be a MDDC home including gardens or shared communal areas. The definitions relating to abandoned and non-roadworthy vehicles have been changed.

2.4 The policy makes it clear that Council tenants are responsible for the behaviour of members of their households and visitors.

2.5 Residents are reminded that if they do anything which interferes with or is likely to interfere with the security or safety of any Council land, or cause damage, defaces, or paints graffiti on any property or structure, they will be recharged for making good the damage.

2.6 Finally, an additional clause has been added stating that we will not be responsible for damage, theft or vandalism to vehicles parked on Council land or property.

Contact for more Information: Claire Fry, Housing Services Manager (01884 234920 cfry@middevon.gov.uk)

Circulation of the Report: Councillor Ray Stanley, Management Team

List of Background Papers: A copy of such papers to be made available for public inspection and included on Website