

## Executive Summary

The principal objectives of the study were to gain an understanding of the current car parking regime, to identify options for the future and also to develop a car parking strategy within Stockton Town Centre. The work also involved ensuring that the appropriate level, location, quality and pricing of on and off street public car parking in the town centre was met so as to maintain the vitality of Stockton town centre in the short, medium and long term.

Local, Regional and National Guidance was reviewed to explore the issues surrounding the existing parking policies in Stockton with regard to the current parking stock, Council parking permits, vehicular and other more sustainable forms of travel, Park and Ride and Travel Planning opportunities.

The existing car parking conditions in Stockton were reviewed, this consisted of a walk-over survey of the off-street car parks, the analysis of car park ticket information and car park capacities. Consultations were held with several council departments and a questionnaire was submitted to the Viewpoint Panel for their opinions.

After analysing the information gathered any issues arising were addressed and a possible solution provided in order to develop a suitable parking strategy for Stockton.

Recommendations included the following:

- Policy Considerations – to review the balance of long and short stay parking facilities with regard to policy objectives and practicality;
- Wayfinding – to produce an appropriate Wayfinding Strategy for both motorists and pedestrians;
- Regeneration and Development – to develop a managed approach to regeneration and development, taking into account long and short stay parking provision across the Town;
- Parking Permits - to explore the feasibility of a park and ride facility, possibly including Council permit holders only;
- Long/Short Stay Provision - to utilise, in the short term, the Dairy site for Council permit holders and to explore the potential to reallocate parking bays within Wellington Square to long stay parking provision for council permit holders;
- Blue Badge Holders - to manage blue badge holder parking through a clear and robust enforcement regime;
- Capacity - To undertake a second stage of data collection to underpin planning and investment decisions; and
- To undertake individual feasibility studies to assess the traffic impact of any additional large parking unit be they surface, multi storey or park and ride in type.