
Report of the Chief Environmental Services Officer and the Director of City Development

Executive Board

Date: 1 April 2009

Subject: City Development Scrutiny Inquiry into Residents Parking Schemes

Electoral Wards Affected:

Citywide

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

City Development Scrutiny have carried out a review of Residents Permit Parking Schemes (RPPS). The Inquiry Report included a number of recommendations and this report advises on the recommendations.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 The Scrutiny Board (City Development) published a report on Resident Permit Parking Schemes (RPPS) in December 2008. In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, the response to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations needs to be agreed by the Executive Board.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Attached to this report is the report of the Scrutiny Board (City Development).

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The recommendations can be summarised as follows:-

- *Recommendation 1 - That the Directors of City Development and Environment and Neighbourhoods undertake a review of residents parking schemes with a view to introducing an option that would enable residents to fund the cost of a resident parking scheme, that this review includes the use of the Council's consultants to provide additional staffing resources and*

provide an option to allow residents to pay for a residents parking scheme be introduced from April 2010.

- *Recommendation 2 - That the assessment method for determining the suitability of establishing a residents parking scheme should include the availability of alternative parking and that this be considered as part of the review proposed in recommendation 1.*
- *Recommendation 3 - That the Directors of City Development and Environment and Neighbourhoods review the issuing of resident and visitors parking permits and consult with residents across the city with a view to phasing in charges for resident and visitor parking permits, residents parking and visitors permits being valid for a period of 1 year instead of 3 years and restricting the number of resident parking permits (and visitor permits) that are issued to each household.*
- *Recommendation 4 - That the Directors of City Development and Environment and Neighbourhoods consider introducing regular reviews of resident parking schemes and report back to the Scrutiny Board on how this might be achieved.*
- *Recommendation 5 - In order to improve the clarity and transparency of the process that detailed guidance on resident parking schemes that promotes understanding of the process involved with resident parking schemes be included on the Council's web site by early 2009.*
- *Recommendation 6 - That the results of the pilot scheme to look at the level of fraud in residents parking zones be reported to the Scrutiny Board early in 2009.*
- *Recommendation 7 - That certainty of funding of residents parking schemes is essential for long term planning of schemes on the approved list and which enables schemes to be run over two or more financial years and that a minimum of a three year planned programme should be adopted for these schemes.*

3.2 With the consistent demands for RPPS, a formal policy is required which will define where residents parking schemes are an appropriate component of parking management within an area. This needs to cover the criteria for the provision of RPPS, including mixed use with limited waiting, pay and display and the arrangements for managing permits. It also requires an approach to prioritisation of the delivery of schemes. This policy can be prepared during 2009 for further consideration by Scrutiny Board.

3.3 The issue of whether to, and the most appropriate method of, introducing a charge for permits in the current economic climate will require a further detailed report to Executive Board. Preparing this report will require consultation including all residents within the existing 70 schemes to be asked if they would want their scheme to be retained if they had to pay for permits and their comments would be sought on the various models for charging and arrangements for visitors and limiting the number of permits. Formal approval to initiate the consultation was sought from the Joint Highways Technical Board on 26th January 2009. Report attached as background documents. The delegated officer considered the decision to be of sufficient strategic importance to escalate to Executive Board for consideration of whether or not it is appropriate, in the current economic climate, to consider payment for residents permits.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The policy which will be developed relating to criteria for the provision of RPPS, including mixed use with limited waiting, pay and display etc, an approach to prioritisation of the delivery of schemes, a mechanism for residents to pay for the implementation of a scheme and the management of permits will help shape future policy on the issues for residents parking permits.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1 Approximately 11,300 residents parking permits have been issued. Hence the consultation exercise is likely to include some 15,000 addresses. Postal costs, survey consultant fees and staff costs place the estimated cost of the consultation at between £10,000 and £15,000. These costs would have to be met from within existing revenue budgets within the two directorates.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 There is a significant risk that publicity arising out of the consultation will raise concern regarding the outcome of the exercise and this will need to be managed.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 In progressing the recommendations it will be necessary to raise public awareness of the potential to charge. The consultation exercise will require a commitment of resources and staff time. It should therefore only be progressed if there is a political commitment to investigate the issues further.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 Members of the Executive Board are asked to:-

- (1) note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Board (City Development), and
- (2) consider and determine whether officers are to report further on charging for permits.

9.0 Background Papers

Review of Residents Parking Schemes, Scrutiny Inquiry Report, December 2008.

Highways Technical Board Report, Resident Parking Schemes Scrutiny Inquiry, January 2009.