

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 MARCH 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME - CHARITY AND CARER PERMIT CHARGES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR T PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
	COUNCILLOR T JONES		CHAIR OF SCRUTINY REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP
SERVICE:	PARKING SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises the Sub-Committee on the proposal to charge for Charity (first) and Carer permits, as the decision about these permit types was deferred from the 12 January 2017 meeting.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the members decide if Charity (first) and Carer permits are charged the first permit fee of £30.
- 2.2 That if the members decide to introduce a £30 charge, agree that it will apply from 1 April 2017.
- 2.3 That the members agree the Permit Management Rule & Definitions are updated to reflect the changes.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport and Planning policy.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Residents' Permit Parking (RP) was established in Reading over 40 (1976) years ago and the Council provide a permit scheme through its parking services teams within the transport service area.

- 4.1.2 The current RP scheme was approved by the Council's Cabinet in December 2010, this followed a review of the service undertaken in 2009-2010 and reported through Cabinet and scrutiny processes in September 2009, February 2010 and July 2010. A revised scheme was introduced in April 2011.
- 4.1.3 Further amendments to the RP scheme and permit management rules were taken through Cabinet, Full Council and Traffic Management Sub-committee (and formally Traffic Management Advisory Panel) meetings in July 2011, September 2011, June 2012, February 2013, June 2013 and January 2014.
- 4.1.4 A further review of the service was undertaken through the Council's scrutiny process at the meeting in January 2013.
- 4.1.5 The Policy Committee meeting held on the 30th November 2015, agreed to increase the 2nd and 3rd resident permit charges to their current levels of £120 and £240 respectively from the 1st February 2016.
- 4.1.6 At Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting held on the 14th January 2016 it was agreed to amend the charges for second discretionary permits, 2nd to 4th charity permits and community agency permits to £120 from the 1st February 2016. Other amendments to the permit scheme rules and definitions were also agreed at that time.
- 4.1.7 At Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting held on the 15th June 2016, it was agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to review the Parking Permit Scheme.
- 4.1.8 The Task and Finish Group review of the permit scheme was concluded and at Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting held on the 12th January 2017 it was agreed to recommend a charge for first resident's permits, discretionary first residents permits, Healthcare Professional, Medical Practitioners and Teacher permits. The recommendations were formally agreed at the Policy Committee meeting held on the 16th January 2017.
- 4.1.9 The Committees agreed the first permit charge would be £30 and apply from the 1st April 2017.
- 4.1.10 The Committee deferred the decision to charge for Charity first permits and Carer permits.

4.2 Current Position

- 4.2.1 Previously there were 52 Residents Parking zones across the Reading Borough but this has been revised to the current 19 Residents Parking Zones.
- 4.2.2 The 19 Residents Parking zones across the Borough encompass all the areas and residential properties covered by the previous scheme but they now provide more space on-street throughout the larger zones. These changes are in line with previous decisions by Cabinet and reflect the outcome of the survey of all residents within the Residents Parking Scheme.
- 4.2.3 In 2015-2016 the following permits were issued, the charges from 1st April 2017 are set out below:

Permit Type	Total issued in 2015/2016	Charges from 1 st April 2017
Business	19	£275
Business Discretionary	15	£330
Charity (free)	26	£0
Charity (charged)	13	£120
Carer	133	£0
Doctor	52	£30
Health Care Professional	490	£30
Resident Discretionary (free)	236	£30
Resident Discretionary (charged)	64	£120
Resident Discretionary (3rd Permit)	3	£240
Resident - First Permits	7,536	£30
Resident - Second Permits	1,463	£120
Non-UK Registered Vehicle Permits	4	£330
Nanny	0	£330
Teacher	64	£30
Tradesperson - Annual	86	£330
Tradesperson - Daily	598	£10
Temporary Permits	3,482	£15
Visitor Books - Free	9,543	£0
Visitor Books - Charged	1,973	£22
Visitor Business	107	£22
Visitor Discretionary (free)	314	£0
Visitor Discretionary (charged)	139	£22
Total	26,360	

4.2.4 Charity (First) Permits

4.2.5 The Council issued 26 first Charity Permits in 2015-2016; these permits are issued to registered Charities and Community Agencies (places of worship/religious establishments based within the Parking Permit zones.)

4.2.6 The Charity permits are issued where the Charity/Community Agency deal with vulnerable clients where staff use their cars regularly to transport or make emergency calls upon clients who reside within permits zones and/or are based at premises within a permit zone. They must demonstrate their workers require the permit and will be for frequent use. They are not issued for commuter parking.

4.2.7 The Charity permits are normally zone specific; however, in exceptional circumstances when the charity has demonstrated their need for it, the Council has issued All Zone permits.

4.2.8 Any Charity/Community Agency that requires additional permits (up to 4) are charged the second permit fee (currently set at £120).

4.2.9 Carer Permits

4.2.10 The Council issued 133 Carer permits in 2015-2016; these permits are issued to households where the resident is over 65 years of age and/or registered disabled. The permit enables their carer(s) to park while visiting to assist with their needs. They are not issued to households that have been issued with a residents permit.

4.2.11 A Carers permit allows up to three vehicles per permit, the carer must not reside at the household.

4.2.12 A Carer is normally family member or friend who will assist the resident with their needs; they do not include the Healthcare professionals, social care staff or agents who may be issued with parking permits by their employers.

4.2.13 In exceptional circumstances the Traffic Management Sub-Committee has granted two carers permits and a residents and carers permit.

4.3 Options Proposed

4.3.1 The current RP scheme has now been in place for 5 years and the Residents Parking Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has now concluded its review. It was agreed to introduce a first permit charge for Residents first permits, Discretionary Resident (first), Doctor (Medical Practitioner), Healthcare Professional (HCP) and Teacher permits at a charge of £30 from the 1st April 2017.

4.3.2 The Committee is asked to decide if the first permit charge should be applied to Charity (first) and Carer permits:

Permit Type	Total Issued in 2015/2016	Proposed Charge	Income
Charity - first	26	£30	£780
Carer	133	£30	£3,990
Total			£4,770

4.3.3 If the £30 is agreed, it would be implemented on the 1st April 2017, in line with the other permit charges.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and contributes to the Council's strategic aims, as set out below:

- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The Residents Parking Review included a survey of all 12,000 households within the current Residents Parking zones completed in 2010.

6.2 The Council has written to resident permit holders to advise them on the changes to the permit scheme charges (letter issued 10th February 2017).

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As set out in Section 4.3.2 there may be additional income from Charity and Carer charges.

8.2 The Financial implications are based on a full year of charges.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 September 2009, February 2010, July 2010 and December 2010, July 2011 and June 2012 Cabinet reports. January 2013 Scrutiny Review and February 2013 Full Council reports.

9.2 Traffic Management Advisory Panel June 2012

9.3 Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports January 2014, January 2016, June 2016 & January 2017

9.4 Policy Committee report 30 November 2015 and 16 January 2017

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None