

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 MARCH 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	8
TITLE:	RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING - NEW AND OUTSTANDING REQUESTS		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The proposals from the Resident Parking review were presented at the January 2017 meeting of the Sub-Committee and an action agreed that Officers present a report to this meeting, consolidating the outstanding requests for resident permit parking across the Borough.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 provides a consolidated list of requests for resident permit parking across the Borough, which are yet to be investigated or have approval by the Sub-Committee for progression to consultation.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That this report becomes a regular agenda item and that new permit parking requests are referred to this 'programme' as per Item 4.7.
- 2.3 That the Sub-Committee considers initial priorities for scheme progression, considering Items 4.8 and 4.9.

2.4 That the permit zone and provisional permit eligibility be proposed ahead of progressing a scheme to statutory consultation, as per Item 4.10.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

4.1 Reading Borough Council operates a number of resident permit parking areas, with the most recent scheme being delivered in the area surrounding the Royal Berkshire Hospital and University.

4.2 The Council is experiencing a significant increase in the number of requests for the introduction of resident permit parking to address parking pressures that are being caused by issues such as commuter parking.

4.3 The Resident Parking Scrutiny Review resulted in a number of alterations to the existing scheme and site assessment criteria. These changes included the introduction of first permit charging but also removed some constrictive policies regarding the site assessment criteria for potential scheme introduction. These changes will assist in covering the costs of operating schemes and will remove some of the boundaries to a street being considered for a scheme.

4.4 The development of a resident permit parking scheme is conducted by a small engineering team, with the support of a legal executive. It is this same team that are responsible for delivering many of the outputs from the Traffic Management Sub-Committee, such as the Waiting Restriction Review Programme and West Reading Study. The processes involved in progressing a scheme are resource-intensive and external funding, such as CIL or Section 106, is typically required for scheme delivery. The Council currently has a backlog of schemes and requests to be investigated and progressed, which have been reported at previous meetings of the Sub-Committee.

4.5 Small-area requests for the introduction of resident permit parking have previously been added to the Waiting Restriction Review programme. The majority of items in this programme are yellow-line restrictions, which are less complex to implement and have a significantly lower impact on the residents of the street. It is very unlikely that a request for resident permit parking would be ready to

implement within the same time duration as a Waiting Restriction Review Programme.

- 4.6 Appendix 1 provides a list of outstanding schemes that are either area schemes, or are yet to be investigated. The appendix includes background information regarding the request/scheme development and some Officer comments. This list does not include requests being presented to the Sub-Committee as part of the 2017A Waiting Restriction Review Programme.
- 4.7 Officers recommend that this report becomes a regular agenda item for the Traffic Management Sub-Committee, with the main report being presented at March and September meetings and scheme update reports presented as required. It is recommended that new requests for resident permit parking are added to this report and are no longer added to the Waiting Restriction Review programme. Minor alterations to existing schemes, such as changes to shared-use timings, should remain in the Waiting Restriction Review programme.
- 4.8 Officers recommend that the Sub-Committee considers the list of schemes alongside Officer comments in Appendix 1 and agrees to an initial priority of schemes to be progressed.
- 4.9 Officers recommend consideration by the Sub-Committee of whether all listed schemes should be progressed.
- 4.10 Officers recommend that the proposals for the permit zone in which a street would be located and the properties that would be eligible for a permit are developed prior to progressing a scheme to statutory consultation. This recommendation would enable affected residents to fully understand the implications of introducing the scheme, once statutory consultation commences. It is recommended that these proposals are developed in consultation with Officers, Ward Councillors and the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport.

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:
 - Keeping the town clean, green and active.
 - Providing the infrastructure to support the economy.
 - Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Informal consultations may take place with residents of a street that is being considered for resident permit parking. This process provides Officers and the Sub-Committee with an indication on the popularity of the parking restriction and will inform the development of the proposal.
- 6.2 Proposed changes to waiting restrictions will require advertisement of the legal Notice as part of the statutory consultation process and advertisement of the sealed Traffic Regulation Order, prior to implementation.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Changes to Traffic Regulation Orders will require advertisement and consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to conducting the statutory consultation on the preferred parking measures.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There will be negligible financial implications in conducting informal consultations.
- 9.2 Funding will need to be identified for statutory consultation and the delivery of each scheme that is to be progressed.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Please refer to the reports noted in Appendix 1 of this report.