

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 2 JULY 2020 | AGENDA ITEM: | 8 |
| TITLE: | RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION: WOKINGHAM ROAD SHARED-USE BAYS | | |
| LEAD COUNCILLOR: | TONY PAGE | PORTFOLIO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT |
| SERVICE: | TRANSPORT | WARDS: | PARK |
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Traffic Management Sub-Committee agreed on shared-use Resident Permit Parking (Zone 14R) / Pay and Display proposals (and agreed to a tariff) for currently unrestricted bays along Wokingham Road to be publicly consulted at their meeting in November 2019.
- 1.2 Following the implementation of the East Reading Study resident permit parking scheme (area 1), these proposals are intended to meet the needs of residents and other establishments by providing additional parking permit bays within the wider scheme area, but also providing flexible parking for visitors throughout the day along with the turnover and relative ease of enforcement that Pay & Display restrictions provide.
- 1.3 A statutory consultation took place between 5th - 26th March 2020.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 provides the publicly advertised plans which show the location and detail of the parking proposals.
- 1.5 Appendix 2 provides the objections and other comments, which were formally submitted during the consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee considers the objections in Appendix 2 and agrees to either implement, amend or reject the proposals. Officers recommend implementing the restrictions, as advertised.
- 2.3 That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and no public inquiry be held into the proposals.
- 2.4 That respondents to the statutory consultation be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee accordingly, following publication of the agreed minutes of the meeting.
- 2.5 That Officers progress the delivery of the resultant restrictions.

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 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Changes to the unrestricted parking bays on Wokingham Road were originally proposed as part of the consultation for the East Reading permit parking scheme, with shared-use permit parking and limited waiting during the daytime. The timings for these periods aligned with those in the surrounding scheme area, whereby permit holders could park at any time, and non-permit holders could park for up to 2 hours between 8am and 8pm.
- 4.2 Having considered the feedback to the consultation, the Sub-Committee agreed to remove the proposals for these bays from the resultant Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and officers were asked to consider alternative restrictions to accommodate visitors to the area more flexibly.
- 4.3 Following additional discussions with the East Reading Study Steering Group, Officers developed an amended proposal. This proposal removes the daytime only visitor period and places a Pay & Display restriction for all visitor parking. The tariff for the Pay & Display element provides the 2 hour free-of-charge parking that the surrounding shared-use restrictions provide, as follows:

- Free of charge - 2 hours

- 3 hours - 50p
- 4 hours - £1
- Each additional hour (or part, thereof) - +50p

It should be noted that parking during the 'free' period will still require purchase of a Pay & Display ticket, although the charge will be £0.

- 4.4 The new proposal is intended to meet the needs of residents by providing additional parking permit bays within the wider scheme area, but also provide flexible parking for visitors throughout the day along with the turnover and relative ease of enforcement that Pay & Display restrictions provide. The restrictions are also intended to overcome the original objections made, primarily by regular visitors, that the maximum stay period could be prohibitively short when limited to only 2 hours between the original 8am - 8pm period.
- 4.5 The Sub-Committee agreed for the revised proposals to proceed to statutory consultation at their meeting in November 2019. The consultation was conducted between the 5th March and 26th March 2020. Appendix 1 provides the written feedback that was received in response to the consultation.
- 4.6 It is recommended that the restrictions be agreed for implementation, as advertised, particularly in context of the imminent delivery of the second part of the East Reading Resident Permit Parking scheme.

The restrictions allow free parking, for up to 2 hours, at any time of the day, which is extendable via a small incremental charge to all visitors. Those with full or visitor Zone 14R resident parking permits can also utilise these bays for their parking needs.

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 priorities, as set out below:
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
 - Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 6.2 The decisions and recommendations of this report are not expected to have significant environmental or climate implications, but could contribute toward reduced vehicle journeys by encouraging car-sharing for attendance at community events, through the

introduction of parking restrictions. Alongside the wider introduction of the resident permit parking scheme, there could be a reduction in commuter parking-related vehicle journeys into the area, with potential increases in uptake of active travel and public transport alternatives.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 As part of the East Reading Study, informal and formal consultations were conducted for the scheme and for the proposed introduction of these restrictions on Wokingham Road. The current proposals were designed following feedback from residents and other road users during these consultations.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 If agreed for implementation, the Order will be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, advertised in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 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.

9.2 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is relevant to the decisions arising from this report, as it is not considered that the decision will have a differential impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The scheme will be introduced using capital funding allocated to delivering the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 East Reading Area Resident Permit Parking - Area 2 and Wokingham Road (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, November 2019).