

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 JULY 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME - DISCRETIONARY PERMITS - GUIDE FOR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR T PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	PARKING SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises members on the discretionary permit decision making process and asks to delegate authority to Council Officers to issue third discretionary permit applications.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the guide that Council Officers will use when deciding discretionary permit applications be noted.
- 2.2 That Officers be granted delegated authority to issue third discretionary permit applications as set out in paragraph 4.3.3 of this report.

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, Traffic Management Sub-committee (and formally Traffic Management Advisory Panel) and Policy Committee meetings between 2011 and 2019.

4.1.4 The Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March 2020 agreed changes to the Permit scheme.

4.2 Current Position

4.2.1 There are 19 Residents Parking zones across the Borough that provides more space on-street throughout the larger zones.

4.2.2 In 2019-2020 the following permits were issued, the charges from 1st October 2019 are set out below

Permit Type	Total Issued in 2019/2020	Charges From 1st October 2019
Business	27	£275.00
Business Discretionary	22	£330.00
Charity (free)	14	£0.00
Charity (charged)	10	£120.00
Carer	111	£0.00
Doctor	34	£40.00
Health Care Professional	307	£40.00
Resident Discretionary (1st permit)	357	£40.00
Resident Discretionary (2nd permit)	114	£150.00
Resident Discretionary (third Permit)	38	£300.00
Resident - First Permits	8,312	£40.00
Resident - Second Permits	2,028	£150.00
Nanny	2	£330.00
Non-UK Registered Vehicle Permits	3	£330.00
Teacher	99	£40.00
Landlord - Annual	11	£330.00
Tradesperson - Annual	109	£330.00
Tradesperson/Landlord - Daily	943	£10.00
Temporary Permits	2,996	£15.00
Visitor Books - Free	13,393	£0.00
Visitor Books - Charged	2,796	£25.00
Visitor Business	76	£25.00
Visitor Charity	30	£25.00
Visitor Discretionary (free)	383	£0.00
Visitor Discretionary (charged)	166	£25.00
GRAND TOTAL	32,504	

4.2.3 The current rules of the permit scheme state:

“Each household will be eligible for 2 permits within a permit zone.

1st permits will have a charge of £40

2nd permits will have a charge of £150”

4.2.4 The rules provide the following for third permit applications:
“Any household which is granted, on a discretionary basis, a third Residents Permit will have a charge of £300.”

4.2.5 Appendix one provides guidance on how the Council Officers deal with discretionary permit applications.

4.3 Options Proposed

4.3.1 Discretionary Permit applications - third discretionary permits applications

4.3.2 The Council issued 38 third discretionary permits for households in the 2019-2020 period. Council Officers have no discretion to authorise a third permit to households unless it is part of a new permit scheme coming in. All applications have been refused and referred to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee for a decision on them.

4.3.3 This report proposes to delegate authority for Council Officers to issue third discretionary permits in the following circumstances:

- Correct proof of residency and vehicle ownership.
- Permit Zone Availability under 95%.
- Eligible Household Status

4.3.4 Please see appendix one for Discretionary Application guidance.

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:

- Securing the economic success of Reading and provision of job opportunities
- Keeping Reading’s environment clean, green and safe
- Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

5.2 This proposal supports the Council’s strategic aims:

- To Develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley
- To establish Reading as a learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

6.2 It is not expected that the decisions arising from this report will have any environmental implications.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The Residents Parking Review included a survey of all 12,000 households within the current Residents Parking zones completed in 2010.
- 7.2 The Council has written to resident permit holders to advise them on the changes to the permit scheme charges (letter issued 13 September 2019).

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no changes to the financial position.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Traffic Management Advisory Panel June 2012
- 10.3 Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports January 2014, January 2016, June 2016, January 2017, March 2020
- 10.4 Policy Committee report 30 November 2015, 16 January 2017, 15 July 2019

11. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Discretionary Permit Guidance