

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 12 SEPTEMBER 2018 | AGENDA ITEM: | 7 |
| TITLE: | RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING: a. REQUESTED SCHEMES LIST UPDATE b. SCHEME DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (LOWER CAVERSHAM, HARROW COURT, EAST READING) | | |
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the list of requests for Resident Permit Parking.
- 1.2 This report also provides an update on the development of proposals for the Lower Caversham area, Harrow Court and East Reading Study area schemes, with a recommendation to progress the Harrow Court and East Reading Study proposals to statutory consultation.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 provides the updated list of requests for Resident Permit Parking.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 provides the recommended scheme for Harrow Court.
- 1.5 Appendix 3 provides the recommended scheme for the East Reading Study area.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee may wish to consider the priorities allocated to items on the list of requested schemes and/or whether all requests should remain on the list for future consideration, as per Items 4.2 - 4.4.

- 2.3 That the scheme for Harrow Court in Appendix 2 proceeds to statutory consultation.
- 2.4 That the scheme for the East Reading Study area in Appendix 3 proceeds to statutory consultation, as per Item 4.14.
- 2.5 That the Sub-Committee agrees the method in which to conduct the statutory consultation for the East Reading Study area scheme, considering the options in Item 4.16 (the Officer recommendations are in Item 4.17).
- 2.6 That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultations and advertise the proposals in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.7 That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.8 That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals.
- 2.9 That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

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

Requested Schemes List - Update

- 4.1 Appendix 1 provides the list of requests that we have received for Resident Permit Parking schemes. Where the Sub-Committee has previously allocated a priority to a scheme, this has been recorded. Where a request has previously been reported to the Sub-Committee, but not allocated a priority, this has also been recorded, along with any schemes that are 'new' to the list.

- 4.2 The Sub-Committee may wish to allocate priorities to particular schemes on this list, although it should be noted that scheme development is resource-intensive and this limited resource is shared between this and many other works programmes. Prioritisation will influence the order in which potential schemes are developed, but not necessarily expedite their development.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee may wish for requests not to be pursued and these can be removed from the list.
- 4.4 It is the recommendation of Officers that Resident Permit Parking is considered on an area basis, not street-by-street. The list contains requests from single streets, but it is hoped that this list will prompt consideration of such restrictions from neighbouring streets to create an area scheme before it becomes an active project. Where this occurs, the listed request will be adjusted accordingly.

Officers will seek to work with Ward Councillors, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and the Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee to agree an initial area that should be considered alongside the original request, once a potential scheme becomes an active project.

Scheme Development Update - Harrow Court

- 4.5 Officers shared a concept scheme design with Ward Councillors, which consisted of a marked-bay, shared-use Resident Permit Parking scheme. It was agreed that this design formed the basis of an informal consultation with residents, in order to obtain feedback on the design, rather than seeking general support or objection.
- 4.6 This informal consultation was conducted over a 3 week period via the Council's website (the 'Consultation Hub') and was publicised via the ward Councillor delivery of letters to households within the proposed area of the scheme.
- 4.7 Officers analysed the feedback (totalling 20 responses) and concluded that there was majority support for a permit holders only scheme, due to concern that the limited parking would be heavily used by visitors to other destinations during the day, if it were shared-use. The feedback also suggested majority support for a scheme that did not include marked bays, in order to potentially increase the availability of parking.
- 4.8 Officers shared this feedback with ward Councillors, with a recommendation that we proceed with a 'Permit Parking Past This Point' restriction for statutory consultation.

- 4.9 Appendix 2 is the recommended design, following correspondence with ward Councillors, be progressed to statutory consultation.
- 4.10 If agreed at this meeting, Officers intend to conduct the consultation over the winter and bring the results to the Sub-Committee meeting in January 2019. There will not be sufficient time to conduct this legal consultation and bring back the results to the meeting in November 2018. No materials will be ordered and no works instructions issued until after a decision has been made by the Sub-Committee to implement a scheme, and the resultant legal Order is sealed.

Scheme Development Update - East Reading Study Area

- 4.11 Officers developed concept plans for the scheme and following meetings with ward Councillors and the East Reading Study Steering Group, these initial plans evolved and formed the basis of an informal consultation.
- 4.12 The purpose of the informal consultation was to obtain feedback on the concept designs and not to seek general support or objection to the concept of introducing a Resident Permit Parking scheme. This informal consultation was conducted over a 4 week period via the Council's website (the 'Consultation Hub') and included an afternoon-evening public drop-in session. It was publicised via the Council's social media outlets and supported by ward Councillor engagement with residents.
- 4.13 The drop-in session was well-attended and we received 452 responses to the consultation, of which 112 contained feedback to assist with the design of the scheme. Officers analysed this feedback, shared it with the ward Councillors and Steering Group and evolved the scheme design accordingly.
- 4.14 Appendix 3 is the recommended design, following meetings with ward Councillors and the Steering Group, be progressed to statutory consultation.
- 4.15 There is concern of a greater desire for Resident Permit Parking to be introduced on the western side of the area, compared with the eastern side of the area. The Steering Group has discussed options for potentially introducing part of the scheme with the ability to consider the remainder, subject to the impact of any displacement.
- 4.16 Officers consider that unrestricted areas would be vulnerable to parking displacement and will experience this as other areas are introduced, however, there are options that could be adopted:

a. Decision to implement all, or part of an Order

The scheme is advertised in a single order. The Sub-Committee considers the objections and comments received and decide to implement the Order, as advertised, or implement part of the Order.

Should it later be considered that streets not included for implementation wish for restrictions to be implemented, the Sub-Committee will need to agree for a further statutory consultation to be conducted, consider the results of this consultation and agree to implementing these further restrictions. This will be a lengthy process.

b. Potential reversal of decision to implement

The scheme is advertised in a single Order. The Sub-Committee considers the objections and comments received and decide to implement the Order, as advertised, or implement part of the Order. The Sub-Committee could agree that Officers arrange for the implementation of part of the Order and could later agree that no further implementation of the scheme takes place, or that the remainder of the Order be implemented as advertised. Any restrictions that are not implemented within 2 years following statutory consultation cannot be implemented.

c. Splitting the scheme into two consultations

The scheme is advertised, but split across two different Orders running concurrently. This would allow the Sub-Committee to consider the objections and comments received in these two areas and agree to implement either/both Orders, or defer the decision on implementing one of the Orders (the second Order would need to be implemented within 2 years following statutory consultation, or it would need to be re-advertised).

The Sub-Committee would need to agree on the boundary for each Order. The Steering Group suggested that Order 1 would include Wokingham Road, the area to the west, Brackendale Way and Heath Road. Order 2 would include the remaining scheme area, to the east of Wokingham Road.

- 4.17 Consultation option 'c' is the recommended proposal, should the Sub-Committee consider that there may be a requirement to postpone implementation, or not implement part of the scheme and to have the option to consider this at a later date. The boundary of the Orders would need to be decided at this meeting.

Consultation option 'a' is the standard consultation process and is the process used in the Waiting Restriction Review programme.

Officers do not recommend consultation option 'b'. Once an Order is agreed for implementation, there is an expectation from residents that it will be implemented, particularly by supporters of the

scheme. There is a risk that a tribunal service could challenge any waiting restrictions within this area, as there would be a Traffic Regulation Order that has not been substantially implemented.

- 4.18 If agreed at this meeting, Officers intend to conduct the consultation(s) over the winter and bring the results to the Sub-Committee meeting in January 2019. There will not be sufficient time to conduct this legal consultation and bring back the results to the meeting in November 2018. No materials will be ordered and no works instructions issued until after a decision has been made by the Sub-Committee to implement a scheme, and the resultant legal Order is sealed.

Scheme Development Update - Lower Caversham area

- 4.19 Officers have developed concept plans, which have been shared and discussed with ward Councillors.
- 4.20 An informal consultation will be conducted on the concept scheme design, so that feedback can be sought for the design to be progressed to statutory consultation. This informal consultation will not be seeking general support or objection for the concept of introducing Resident Permit Parking scheme.
- 4.21 This informal consultation will be on the Council's website (in the 'Consultation Hub') and be supported by a public drop-in.
- 4.22 The feedback from this consultation will be analysed and shared with ward Councillors, where the proposed scheme designs can evolve as appropriate.
- 4.23 It is hoped that the proposed scheme can be agreed ahead of reporting deadlines for the November 2018 meeting of the Sub-Committee, where approval will be sought to conduct statutory consultation.
- 4.24 Officers hope to conduct the consultation over the winter and report the objections and other comments to the January 2019 meeting of the Sub-Committee. This, however, will a very short period in which to prepare and conduct a large area consultation and analyse the results.
- 4.25 No materials will be ordered and no works instructions issued until a decision has been made by the Sub-Committee to implement a scheme, and the resultant legal Order is sealed.

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

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Informal consultations have been conducted on the initial scheme designs for Harrow Court and the East Reading Study area. Feedback has been considered by Officers, ward Councillors and the East Reading Study Steering Group and the designs evolved as appropriate. This same process will be followed with the Lower Caversham area proposals also.

6.2 Statutory consultation will be conducted in accordance with appropriate legislation. Notices will be advertised in the local printed newspaper and will be erected on lamp columns within the affected area.

6.3 Sealed Traffic Regulation Orders will be advertised in the local printed newspaper prior to implementation of the associated scheme.

6.4 Objectors to statutory consultations will be contacted with the decision of the Sub-Committee, following publication of the agreed meeting minutes.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Changes to Traffic Regulation Orders 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 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant as the proposals are not deemed to be discriminatory to persons with protected characteristics and statutory consultations provide an opportunity for objections/support/concerns to be considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement the proposals.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The cost of a scheme will be dependent on the type of restrictions applied (the signing and lining requirements), the extent and the complexity of the scheme.

9.2 Funding will need to be identified prior to the implementation of any scheme.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Resident Permit Parking: Scheme development update (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, June 2018).

10.2 Resident Permit Parking - New and Outstanding Requests & Results of Informal Consultations (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, March 2018).