

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	EAST READING AREA RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING - AREA 2 AND WOKINGHAM ROAD		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Sub-Committee with an opportunity to consider the implementation of 'Area 2' of the East Reading area Resident Permit Parking Scheme. This decision was deferred by the Sub-Committee, pending the implementation of 'Area 1', which is now complete.
- 1.2 This report recommends restrictions for the currently-unrestricted parking areas along Wokingham Road, which can be progressed to statutory consultation, following objections to the original proposals that were part of the Area 1 TRO.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 provides the objections that were received to the statutory consultation on the Area 2 scheme.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 provides the drawings for the Area 2 scheme.
- 1.5 Appendix 3 provides the proposals recommended for Wokingham Road.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

- 2.2 That the objections and other feedback noted in Appendix 1 is considered by the Sub-Committee and that the proposals for Area 2 of the East Reading RPP scheme be agreed for implementation 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 the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a statutory consultation for the proposed restrictions on Wokingham Road, as per Item 4.7.
- 2.6 That subject to no objections being received, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.7 That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.8 That the Head of Transport (or appropriate Officer), 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

- 4.1 Informal consultations have been conducted on the principle of introducing an RPP scheme and on the concept scheme design for the East Reading area.

The Sub-Committee agreed for the resultant scheme to proceed to statutory consultation at their meeting in September 2018, but that the scheme be consulted as two parts, which this report refers as Area 1 and Area 2.

- 4.2 The consultation results for both areas were reported to the Sub-Committee at their meeting in January 2019. Upon reviewing a number of specific objections, Officers produced amended recommendations to the Sub-Committee at this meeting, which included the removal of the proposed restrictions on Wokingham Road (Area 1) from the TRO, pending a revision of the proposed restrictions.

The Sub-Committee agreed to the implementation of Area 1, agreeing to the minor amendments and removal of Wokingham Road from the TRO.

The Sub-Committee deferred the decision for Area 2, as the consultation feedback and resident feedback (via Ward Councillors) suggested that the scheme was less favourable in this area. It was proposed that the decision be brought back to the Sub-Committee following the implementation of Area 1.

- 4.3 Area 1 was implemented over the summer school holiday period and was 'live' (enforced) from 16th September 2019.

The Sub-Committee is now asked to consider the objections to the consultation in Appendix 1, in the context of the introduction of Area 1, and take the decision to either implement the scheme as advertised, implement an amended scheme, or not to implement the scheme.

If a decision is taken to implement an amended scheme, officers will only be able to do so if the proposed changes do not compromise the legality of the TRO and advertising process. Otherwise, the scheme will require a further statutory consultation.

- 4.4 Scheme implementation will not be programmed, 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, the meeting minutes are agreed and the resultant legal Order is sealed.

Wokingham Road

- 4.5 As per Item 4.2, the originally advertised proposals for the unrestricted bays on Wokingham Road were removed from the Area 1 TRO.

It was originally proposed that these bays would become 'shared-use', whereby permit holders could park at any time, and non-permit holders could park for up to 2 hours between 8am and 8pm.

Having considered the feedback from the consultation, Officers developed an amended proposal for the bays on Wokingham Road and reported these to the Sub-Committee at their March 2019 meeting. These are shown in Appendix 3 and include another 'shared-use' type restriction, which allows permit holders to park at any time but also allows non-permit holders to park up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a Pay & Display charge.

- 4.6 These new proposals were 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.

It was proposed that these restrictions will overcome the objections made primarily by regular visitors, that the maximum stay period could be prohibitively short and limited only to the 8am - 8pm period.

- 4.7 While the Sub-Committee agreed for the proposals to progress to statutory consultation, there was no agreement by the East Reading Study Steering Group on the Pay & Display tariff to be advertised. Members proposed that a full proposal be brought to the Sub-Committee, following implementation of Area 1.

- 4.7 It is recommended that the original proposal in Appendix 3 be progressed to statutory consultation and that the Pay & Display tariff be advertised 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.

While it is uncommon for free periods of on-street charging to apply in the borough, it is considered that these bays represent a reasonably unique situation of being in a residential area, not directly within a shopping area, and the free period of charging reflects the typical 2 hour period of shared-use parking applied within such RPP restrictions elsewhere.

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. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 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.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 New, or changes to existing, 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. The resultant Traffic Regulation Order will be sealed in accordance with the same regulations.

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 does not consider that the proposals will be discriminatory to any groups with protected characteristics. Informal and statutory consultations provide opportunities for objections/support/concerns to be raised and considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement a scheme and these proposals do not remove parking availability for any user.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is intended that the scheme be funded using Transport Capital funding, which will include developer contributions (e.g. Section 106) wherever possible.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Resident Permit Parking Update Report, Part b: Proposals for Statutory Consultation (East Reading Area - Wokingham Road) (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, March 2019).
- 10.2 Resident Permit Parking Update, Part a: Objections to Advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (Harrow Court, East Reading, The Willows/St Stephens Close) (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, January 2019, with officer revisions to the recommended actions)