

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 April 2022

Call-in – On Street Parking Management Task and Finish Group Recommendations

Recommendations

That Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the call-in request.

1. Key Issues/Background

1.1. On 10 March 2022, Cabinet considered the recommendations made by the On-Street Parking Management Task and Finish Group. A copy of the report to Cabinet is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2. The minutes of the Cabinet meeting are attached as Appendix 2. Cabinet resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorses the recommendations made by the Cross-Party Working Group in sections 2 and 3 of the report, but with the discount for electric vehicles extended to hybrid vehicles, and authorises the Strategic Director for Communities to advertise variations to the on-street parking orders pursuant to sections 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 giving effect to the changes to the residents' and guesthouses' permit structure and charges so recommended;
2. Requests a further report following statutory consultation advising on the issues raised in the debate, any objections or comments received, any proposed modifications, and on an appropriate timescale for implementation of any variations, including the proposal to defer implementation for 12 months.

1.3. Following the publication of the decision it was called-in by Councillors Sarah Feeney, John Holland, Barbara Brown and Sarah Millar. The reasons for the call-in were given as:

- 1.3.1. That the report does not clearly breakdown how the cost can be £63 per resident and that this was confusing because officers are suggesting that enforcement is not part of the £63 despite this being part of the report.
- 1.3.2. Without the benefit of the detailed financial data, it seemed impossible that the scheme costs £850,000 to administer.
- 1.3.3. The report suggests a decrease in price for electric vehicles, but many residents cannot legally put in electric charging points.
- 1.3.4. The increase in pricing takes no account of residents' ability to pay ignoring the Council's policies on tackling social inequality.

- 1.3.5. That there are insufficient spaces for residents in some divisions to park in and residents feel that they are not getting the service they pay for meaning that a full parking survey needs to take place.
 - 1.3.6. The report gives no consideration to streets opting out of the parking zone.
 - 1.3.7. The electronic system will be particularly difficult for those with visitors to operate.
- 1.4. A full response will be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by officers at the meeting.
 - 1.5. The following is a summary of the decision-making background which is covered in more detail in the Cabinet report of 10 March 2022.
 - 1.5.1. Following public consultation and consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2020, the Committee recommended changes to the proposed permit price rises, that the switch to digital virtual digital virtual permitting should proceed, and that pay and pay and display charges and parking suspension and dispensation charges should increase as proposed.
 - 1.5.2. The matter was taken to Cabinet in October 2020 and Cabinet resolved that the pay and display rises should go ahead as previously identified and that the switch to digital virtual permitting should also proceed. The pay and display rises and permit price increases were put on hold to recognise the economic impacts of the pandemic on businesses and individuals. Cabinet further resolved that a short duration cross party working group would be established chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning to make future recommendations as to the future basis of permit pricing and the opportunities for parking management to promote environmental sustainability and the visitor and general economy.
 - 1.5.3. The report to Cabinet on 10 March 2022 which is the subject of the call in contained the recommendations of that Working Group. Although the group did not unanimously agree on the recommendations there was broad support for the principle of moving permit prices closer to break even and all recommendations were majority made.
 - 1.5.4. The group was comprised of five Conservative group members (including the Chair), one Labour group member, one Liberal Democrat group member and one Green group member. The group was supported by Transport & Policy, Legal, and the Assistant Director for Communities and Democratic Services.
 - 1.5.5. As confirmed in the Cabinet report, the Council has a discretion to raise permit charges so that the cost of the scheme breaks even. The proposals are in line with the policies set by Cabinet in 2007 that charges for residents' permits should be based on the costs of

administering the scheme which is considered a lawful basis of charging.

- 1.5.6. The proposals were considered at a meeting of Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 March 2022 and the comments of the committee included in the Cabinet report.
- 1.6. The procedure for call in is set out in Standing Order 13. Having considered the call-in request, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may (i) refer the matter back to the decision maker for reconsideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns or (ii) decide to take no action.
- 1.7. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the matter and decide whether to return the matter to Cabinet for reconsideration with an explanation of its concerns or to take no action (with or without comment) in which case Cabinet's decision will be implemented with immediate effect.

2. Environmental Implications

The environmental implications relating to the original decision that is the subject of this call in are covered in the report of 10 March 2022.

3. Financial Implications

The financial implications relating to the original decision that is the subject of this call in are covered in the report of 10 March 2022.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report

Appendix 2 - Cabinet Minutes for the Report subject to call in

5. Background papers

5.1 Call In request

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