

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: RESIDENTS PARKING POLICY
DATE: 16 OCTOBER 2014
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

A report is scheduled to be presented to the 18 November 2014 Cabinet recommending the approval of the Residents Parking Policy. The policy will provide a clear guide on where parking restrictions in residential areas are appropriate, a consistent framework for implementing, amending or removing these restrictions, design considerations for new parking restrictions, eligibility for permits in resident parking schemes and the Council's approach to enforcement of parking restrictions.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The administration requested that an extensive review of Residents Parking Schemes be carried out in 2014. The three stages to this review were as follows;
 - A consultation of residents on the existing Residents Parking schemes
 - The development of a new Residents Parking Policy to underpin any changes
 - The implementation of any changes to Resident Parking Schemes as requested by residents
2. In March 2014, a consultation of all households eligible for parking permits in Resident Parking Zones was carried out. Over 14,000 surveys were posted to residents with 3186 responses received. The survey asked a range of questions in respect of the operation of the Resident Parking Zones (such as preferred days and hours of operation) and also whether the various zones should be retained, amended or removed. The majority of residents in all zones requested that the parking restrictions be retained, although there were some requests for amendments in specific areas or even individual roads. Southampton City Council (SCC) subsequently undertook to make changes to the parking zones where they had been requested.
3. The consultation of eligible households was followed by an internal consultation in May of SCC departments who have a related interest in Resident parking (including finance, legal, city development, planning policy, parking services).
4. The final stage of the consultation process was a city wide consultation in July/August on the resident parking schemes which was a web based survey hosted on the SCC website. The survey asked questions about the basic principles of Resident Parking Zones (such as what issues should be taken into consideration during the design phase and who should be eligible for permits). There was also an opportunity for resident groups to highlight a need for new resident parking zones (or extensions to existing ones). 114 responses were received to this survey.
5. A new policy framework is required to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted to implementing any new parking restrictions or making amendments to or removing existing ones. Other issues related to resident parking such as the eligibility of households in new developments and access to parking permits for landlords also need to be clarified. A new Residents Parking Policy has therefore been developed

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which seeks to address these requirements. This is attached as Appendix 1.

6. The main topics addressed by the proposed Residents Parking Policy are as follows;
 - That SCC will not seek to *initiate* the process of implementing, amending, or removing parking restrictions in residential areas unless there is a need to address highway access or safety issues.
 - That SCC will however respond to a request from a representative group of residents to investigate the implementation, amendment or removal of parking restrictions in residential areas
 - The circumstances in which SCC consider H Bars, Keep Clear or No Waiting Restrictions an appropriate solution to parking issues in residential areas
 - The circumstances in which SCC consider a Resident Parking Scheme an appropriate solution to parking issues in residential areas
 - The process for introducing or making changes to parking restrictions in residential areas is established as below;
 - i) The Trigger Phase – A request from a representative group of residents to resolve parking issues is received
 - ii) The Design Phase – SCC will work with the group to design the new parking arrangements (including specifying the days/hours of operation, parking bay design, limited waiting periods etc)
 - iii) The Implementation Phase – All affected residents are consulted on the final design with a significant majority in favour required for the scheme to be implemented
 - The criteria by which properties/vehicles are considered eligible for a parking permit and visitor permits in Resident Parking Scheme
 - The non-resident individuals/groups/organisations who qualify for access to parking permits for use in Residents Parking Schemes
 - The enforcement of parking restrictions in residential areas
 - The circumstances in which parking permits may be cancelled or withdrawn
7. Following the consultation on parking restrictions in residential areas, an action plan to resolve issues as highlighted by the residents has been drawn up and is attached as Appendix 2. This is not part of the Cabinet decision, but is included to highlight the key outcome of the Resident Parking Review. The action plan will be implemented over a 12 month period.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial

8. There are no financial implications inherent in the policy

Property / Other

9. There are no property implications inherent in the policy

Legal

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10. Southampton City Council is the Local Transport Authority for the City and as such has the powers to implement Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables the introduction of permit charges as part of a Traffic Regulation Order.

Policy

11. The Residents Parking Policy is compatible with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and also the Local development Plan (LDP), these being the statutory planning documents for the City, and form part of the Council's Policy framework.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

- 1 Residents Parking Policy
- 2 Residents Parking Action Plan

Further Information Available From:

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