



Purpose: For Decision

Committee report

Committee	CABINET
Date	11 OCTOBER 2018
Title	REVIEW OF BUSINESS PARKING PERMITS
Report to	CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides information on the purpose and history of resident parking zones on the Isle of Wight.
2. It sets out the introduction of business permits within resident parking zones and the number of business permits currently in issue. It also highlights the issues associated with these practices.
3. The report presents the options available to the authority to ensure that it acts in a fair, consistent and reasonable manner.

BACKGROUND

4. The council has a number of resident parking zones that have been introduced over the years and comply with the Regulation 4 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions Act 2002. The zones are located in Cowes, Newport, Ryde, Yarmouth, Sandown and Shanklin.
5. A number of years ago a decision was made to extend the resident parking permits to businesses in the existing zones. This allowed businesses within resident parking zones to purchase permits in the same way as residents irrespective of whether or not they resided on the premises; subsequently they were allowed to purchase up to two permits per business.
6. Business permits were welcomed by those businesses located in the zones, but such a practice has, over the years, caused numerous complaints from other business that would like to benefit from the same discounted rates. In some cases businesses located in the same high street and in very close proximity are considered to be treated very differently. Those finding themselves just inside of a zone are being treated differently, with their staff paying £46 per annum, while others are paying £420 per annum to park in a long stay car park.

7. Resident zone permit holders have also complained that they are often unable to find spaces in the street where they reside due to the large number of permits issued to businesses in the area.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

8. There are currently 142 current permits issued to businesses, the majority issued for the Cowes and Yarmouth zones. Each permit is currently charged at £46 per annum deriving an income of £6,532.
9. This income would be lost if these were no longer issued. However, the business user may, like all other individuals currently commuting into a town, look to purchase either parking permits or pay and display tickets in council controlled car parks and therefore generate a new income stream.

CARBON EMISSIONS

10. The increase in the number of spaces in a given area may result in more short stay spaces being available to the general public, which may reduce journey times throughout the day and reduce carbon emissions

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. By virtue of s45 of [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984](#), a local authority has the power to designate parking places on the highway, to charge for their use and to issue parking permits for a charge. This power allows the council to introduce the resident parking zones and charge. When making a decision as to which zones are to be designated as a Residents parking zone the council shall consider both the interests of traffic and those of the owners and occupiers of adjoining property. It should also have regard to the need for maintaining the free movement of traffic; the need for maintaining reasonable access to premises; and the extent to which off-street parking accommodation, whether in the open or under cover, is available in the neighbourhood or the provision of such parking accommodation is likely to be encouraged there by the designation of parking places.
12. The council has a more general duty under s122 of the same act to, so far as is reasonably practicable, secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

13. The council, as a public body, is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. None of the identified groups are likely to be adversely affected by the recommendations of this report.

OPTIONS

OPTION A

14. Do nothing and continue to allow business permits to be issued in the existing resident parking zones

OPTION B

15. Remove the option to renew permits from the date at which the current permits expire and not issue new requests for permits with immediate effect.

OPTION C

Remove business permits, and phase their removal over a 1 year period. Not to issue any new permits with immediate effect.

OPTION D

16. Remove the option to renew permits over a 3 year period and not to issue any new permits with immediate effect.

RISK MANAGEMENT

17. There is a reputational risk that when removing business permits the business community will indicate that the council is not supporting local businesses. However, this offer is only open to a limited number of businesses and there appears to be no specific reason as to why the council would be supporting certain businesses in this way and not others.
18. There is a risk that the continuation of this practice will be considered to be inequitable and that the council will be unable to justify its actions in a fair and transparent way to the business community at large.

EVALUATION

19. It is important that all business users are offered the same opportunities for parking. Currently discounted rates have only been offered to a limited number of businesses. With this in mind it is recommended that this option be removed but individuals are offered a period of time to find alternatives to the current arrangements. Removal of the permits would also allow residents in busy streets more of an opportunity to park which is, after all the purpose of the creation of resident's schemes

RECOMMENDATION

Option C - Remove business permits, and phase their removal over a 1 year period.
Not to issue any new permits with immediate effect.

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