



Highways Committee

27th July 2011

Report from the Head of Transportation

For Decision

Wards Affected: ALL

Petition opposing the increase in the residents parking permit charges.

1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee of a petition received, signed by residents from across the Borough, in relation to proposals to introduce a vehicle emission-based scheme of charges, with a revised range of charges, for residents parking permits. The petition opposes the proposals.
- 1.2 The report outlines the arrangements that were made for considering representations to the proposals, confirms that the petition was properly considered before a decision was made and provides details of the decision made.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That, the Committee notes the contents of the petition and the issues raised.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the response of officers, to the petition, as set out in the report.
- 2.3 That the Committee agrees that the main petitioner should be advised of the Committees' consideration of this matter.

3.0 Petition

- 3.1 A petition has been received in relation to proposals to introduce a vehicle emission based scheme of charges, with a revised range of charges, for residents parking permits. The petition was presented by Brent Liberal Democratic Group and reads “as a local resident I oppose the plans by the Labour Executive at Brent Council to increase residents Parking Permit charges by an excessive amount. CPZ’s exist to protect local residents and NOT make money out of us”.
- 3.2 The petition has been verified by officers in Democratic Services as meeting the threshold for consideration by the Committee.
- 3.3 The petition has been signed by approximately 1050 people.
- 3.4 In considering this particular petition the Committee will, as should be the case with all petitions, need to be mindful of the arrangements that may have been made to capture signatures, the degree to which petitioners may have been aware of the proposals in general and in detail and the degree to which petitioners might be affected by the proposals

4.0 Report

- 4.1 The Committee will be aware that, at its meeting on 11th August 2010 the Executive Committee agreed to introduce a vehicle emission-based regime, with a new regime of charges, for residents parking permits, subject to the undertaking of appropriate consultation and advertising of Traffic Orders, from 01st April 2011.

The Executive delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Culture to subsequently consider all representations received in relation to the proposals and, having considered those representations and if appropriate, making any modifications, make the proposed Traffic Orders to introduce the regime and charges.

The proposals are designed to encourage residents to consider the contribution their vehicle makes to CO₂ emissions and climate change whilst revising the charge for an average vehicle so that it is more closely aligned to permit charges in other London boroughs with similar parking conditions and practices.

- 4.2 The proposals approved, in principle, by the Executive also included measures to support travel behavioural change by the introduction of an “all zone” permit for car club users and a “permit surrender prize” scheme to reward residents surrendering their permits for a finite time with a contribution towards car club membership, purchase of a cycle or oyster travel.
- 4.3 Following the Executive Committee decision on 11th August 2010, officers undertook appropriate consultation on the proposals, including

the statutory consultation on the necessary Traffic Orders. The petition was a response to that consultation process.

4.4 The consultation process closed in January this year. A total of 110 separate representations were received in response to the proposals. Two (2) petitions were received – including the petition that is the subject of this report.

4.5 All the representations were collated, summarised and discussed within a (delegated) decision report that was subsequently presented to the Director for Environment & Neighbourhood Services for consideration in early February 2011.

The report was presented to the Director for Environment and Neighbourhood Services as successor to the Director of Environment and Culture following the Council-wide reorganisation implemented in October 2010.

4.6 A copy of the delegated decision report, with relevant Appendices, is shown at Appendix '1'.

4.7 The petition, and the issues it raised, were expressly considered within the decision report. Section 4.3 of the decision report (at Appendix '1') describes the petition and repeats the text. Appendix 'C' of the decision report (at Appendix '1') contained extracts of both petitions.

The issues raised in the petition in regard to the proposed cost of permits and the purpose of Controlled Parking Zones were discussed in Sections 5.6 and 5.13 of the decision report (at Appendix '1')

4.8 After considering all the representations received in relation to the proposals, including the petition that is the subject of this report, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services decided, on 11th February 2011, to approve the making of the Traffic Orders so as to introduce the new regime and charges from 01st April 2011.

4.9 Following that decision changes to the regime of charges for residents parking permits were introduced, from 1st April 2011. The implementation arrangements included a communications strategy to ensure that residents were aware of the new arrangements, and the rationale behind the arrangements prior to purchasing permits.

5.0 Summary

5.1 The petitioners are opposed to the introduction of the vehicle emission-based regime of charges, with the revised range of charges, originally approved in principle by the Executive on 11th August 2010.

5.2 The Executive delegated authority to consider any representations received in response to the proposals, and for making a decision on the

proposals, to the Director of Environment and Culture (now the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services).

5.3 The petition, and the issues raised by the petition were expressly considered by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services when a decision on the proposals was made on 11th February 2011 and recorded in the report at Appendix 1. The decision was to introduce the regime and charges, as initially agreed in principle by the Executive on 11th August 2010, from 01st April 2011. That decision was implemented on 1st April 2011.

5.4 The Committee are recommended to note the contents of this report.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. The implications of introducing the emission-based resident parking permit regime and associated range of charges are as set out in the report to the Executive on 11th August 2010 and the subsequent delegated decision report at Appendix 1.

7.0 Legal Implications

None in addition to those set out in the report to Executive dated 11th August 2010 and the delegated decision report at Appendix 1.

8.0 Other Implications

No other significant implications.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Delegated decision report to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services – “The introduction of vehicle emission based charging regime and new charges for residents parking permits and other related parking permit charges” (*Signed 11th February 2011*)

Background papers

As noted in Appendix ‘1’.

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