

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2006

PROPOSED INCREASE IN RESIDENTS PARKING PERMITS, WINCHESTER

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Contact Officer: Neville Crisp Tel No: 01962 848484

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB1191(TP) – Review of Residents' Parking Permit Scheme - 19 January 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On 19 January 2006, the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee decided to increase certain residents' parking permit fees with the intention of making the scheme cost-neutral. It was decided to increase the charge for the first permit, for both resident and visitor categories, from £20.00 to £24.00, together with discounts for environmentally friendly vehicles. The implementation of these decisions was formally pursued following the City Council election.

This proposal was drawn-up and the relevant County Councillors, City Councillors, Police and Parking Office Manager were subsequently consulted and gave their approval to proceed.

Public notices were placed in the Hampshire Chronicle on Friday 15 June 2006, and erected on street from Friday 15 June 2006 up to and including Friday 21 July 2006. Individual letters and details of the proposal were sent to all existing permit holders – a total of 4048. All relevant notices, schedules and a copy of the main order were kept on deposit at the City Offices reception in Colebrook Street during the corresponding period. See Appendices A, B and C.

As a result of the 4048 letters distributed 33 letters were received during the objection period. Out of these there were a total of 27 official objections (equivalent to 0.7% of those contacted), 5 requests for additional information/comments and one letter of support. All letters were acknowledged and replied to in full as appropriate. Details of this correspondence are shown in Appendix D.

Following the change in administration of the Council from 4 May 2006, the incoming

Portfolio Holder indicated to officers his preference that increases in charges should be kept as close as possible to the rate of inflation. The original proposal has therefore been reviewed accordingly and alternatives considered within the scope of the proposal as advertised.

In light of the above objections and further to discussion between officers and the Portfolio Holder, a revised proposal is now being recommended of an increase to the first permit for both resident and visitor categories, from £20.00 to £22.00. This would be implemented as soon as the necessary forms can be printed at the start of November. This represents an increase of approximately 5% per annum over the period since the previous increase in fees in June 2005, and June 2007 which is the likely date when fees will next be reviewed and increased if necessary. This revised increase is the lowest considered practicable but should nevertheless put the scheme into financial balance based on the latest available predicted running cost projections.

It is recommended that the proposed discounts for 'environmentally friendly' vehicles of 75% for vehicles in Vehicle Excise Duty Band A and 50% for vehicles in Vehicle Excise Duty Band B be implemented as originally advertised.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the proposed revision to the fee for residents' and visitors' first parking permits be amended and increased from £20.00 per annum to £22.00 per annum.
2. That discounts for environmentally friendly vehicles in Vehicle Excise Duty Bands A and B of 75% and 50% respectively be introduced as advertised.
3. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to make the necessary order.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

This proposal is in keeping with the Corporate Strategy in its attempt to improve traffic management and road safety.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of implementing this proposal is covered by funding through the Traffic Management Agreement with Hampshire County Council.

There will be no additional enforcement costs as a result of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the income from permits for 2006/07 will match the assumptions made for projected income despite the delay in introducing the increase and the lower proposed permit price. This is due to a lower level of inflation being used at the time the projection was made. There will, however, be an impact on income in future years and it is therefore

recognised that the lower charge will result in a lower baseline for future increases. This will be reflected in future projections of income.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Correspondence on Traffic and Transport Division files Ref: 810402/60

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Proposal statement of reasons and schedules

Appendix B: Public notice as advertised

Appendix C: Covering letter to existing permit holders

Appendix D: Summary of correspondence