

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL

3 DECEMBER 2003

Chair: * Councillor Miles

Councillors: * Arnold * Ismail
 * Mrs Bath (1) * Mrs Kinnear
 * Burchell * John Nickolay
 * Choudhury * Anne Whitehead

* Denotes Member present
 (1) Denote category of Reserve Member
 † Denotes apologies received

RECOMMENDATION 2: Charges for Business Parking Permits

The Panel received an update report of the Interim Head of Environment and Transport, which was presented by the Principal Engineer (West) regarding charges for business parking permits.

Members were reminded that this report followed the one made to September's Panel meeting, where it was explained that on-street parking provision for business use, carers and teachers were being reviewed.

The officer explained that four options had been considered, and in-depth research into those options had been undertaken to ascertain the advantages and disadvantages. Members were advised that, out of the four options proposed and given the high demand for on-street spaces, and the need to encourage off-street parking in preference to on-street, business permits would be restricted to off-street in Harrow town centre. For all other areas, £300 per annum (p.a) charge would be levied for an on-street permit, which would make it lower than the off-street charge, in real terms the on-street charge would be equivalent to 2 hours paid parking per day, and holders would be entitled to park at pay and display spaces for 2x3 hours per day, and this would be applied across the borough except Harrow town centre.

The officer advised that the business permit charge was tax deductible, and the demands for business permits were currently unknown, therefore, the charge might be reviewed in light of experience to reflect demand and capacity to meet that demand.

Members were advised that off-street parking was only available at centres where there was spare capacity in car parks. It was also highlighted that off-street charges were normally set lower than on-street charges to encourage vehicles to park off-street. But in respect of business permits, different conditions apply for on and off-parking. Off-street parking was unrestricted, whereas on-street parking was limited to operational vehicles with a 3 hour maximum stay. Providing the vehicles were not essential to the operation of the business, there were no time restrictions, and this would be reflected in permit price.

It was highlighted that off-street charges for vehicle specific business permits were currently charged at £700 a year in Harrow Town Centre and £470 elsewhere. For company specific permits the current charges were £750 and £617p.a respectively. The officer concluded that there would be no need to review the off-street business charge if an on-street permit charge of £300p.a was set across the borough.

Members discussed the four options proposed and the possible effect of the £300p.a charge on smaller businesses in Wealdstone. The officer responded that careful consideration had been taken to weigh up the pros and cons of each option, particularly as not to preclude shoppers from entering areas such as Wealdstone, he went on to say that it was thought that £300p.a was a reasonable amount, of which Members agreed.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Executive)

That the Panel (i) recommend to Cabinet, when they consider the annual report on the review of fees and charges, that the charge for on-street business parking permits should be £300 p.a., to apply in all controlled parking zones in the borough except Harrow Town Centre (defined for this purpose as zones D, E and F **and the area abounded by D, E and F**), where adequate off-street parking space is available for businesses; and

(ii) recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport that the 'no return' period associated with the maximum stay for business permit holder be 30 minutes.

REASON: To manage parking.

[The officer informed the Panel that the wording of the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 of the officer report had been amended, so it should now read: 'That the Panel recommend to Cabinet, when they consider the annual report on the review of fees and charges, that the charge for on-street business parking permits should be £300p.a., to apply in all controlled parking zones in the borough except Harrow Town Centre (defined for this purpose as zones D, E and F **and the area abounded by D, E and F**), where adequate off-street parking space is available for businesses.]

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.02 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JERRY MILES
Chair