

Resident Parking Scheme Policy Review Update and Proposed Price Increases for Permits and On-Street Parking

- To: Cambridge Joint Area Committee
- Meeting Date: 18 December 2024
- From: Executive Director of Place and Sustainability
- Electoral division(s): Cambridge City
- Executive summary: This paper provides an update on the status of the Resident Parking Scheme Policy review and the proposed permit and on-street parking price increase.
- Recommendation: The Cambridge Joint Area Committee is recommended to:
- a) Note the update on the Resident Parking Scheme Policy review; and
 - b) Note the proposed permit price and on-street parking charges increases, which are included in the County Council's draft Business Plan.

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1. Background

Resident Parking Scheme Policy Review

- 1.1 The Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) Policy provides a framework for the consideration of the introduction, amending and extension of formalised RPSs across the county and sets out the principles for the administration of those schemes.
- 1.2 A review of the RPS Policy has been undertaken to ensure that the County Council has a fair and transparent residents parking policy in place that supports residents, visitors, businesses and the rollout of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).
- 1.3 The review has been split into two stages. Stage 1 looks at the operational elements, the day-to-day management and the administration of permits. Stage 2 will review the permit pricing structure and explore options surrounding the introduction of virtual visitor permits for residents, alongside improvements to the general look of the permits system.
- 1.4 This report looks at Stage 1, while Stage 2 will commence in June 2025.
- 1.5 The last RPS Policy and permit cost review was undertaken in 2017.
- 1.6 Currently, there are twenty-three schemes across Cambridge City, two in St Neots and two in Huntingdon. Several new schemes are being considered by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) across Cambridge City and a further scheme is in the process of being installed in South Cambridgeshire. With the roll out of CPE across the districts, demand for such schemes is expected to grow.

Permit Price and On-Street Parking charges increases

- 1.7 Permit prices are reviewed annually to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, the cost of providing this service is covered by permit revenue and as such should be cost-neutral to the County Council. The general principle will apply that those that directly benefit from the introduction of RPSs should meet the development, set up, enforcement and the ongoing administration cost of those schemes.
- 1.8 On-street parking charges are reviewed annually to ensure that the full costs of back office and enforcement costs are covered and that the charges are in line with the County Council's sustainable travel ambitions.

2. Main issues

Resident Parking Scheme Policy Review

- 2.1 A small number of policy changes have been proposed. Some of those changes simply offer more clarity on existing policy and practices and have little effect on the day-to-day experience of parking scheme permit holders. Other proposed changes could have a more significant operational impact.
- 2.2 The proposed policy changes with the greatest impact are highlighted in Appendix 1 and the draft policy document is attached at Appendix 2.

- 2.3 The proposed policy amendments aim to formalise current practices and to offer clarity, fairness and transparency, to ensure the longevity and the sustainability of RPSs.
- 2.4 A public engagement has been undertaken by the Parking Policy Team. An on-line survey was opened on 31 October 2024 and closed on 12 December 2024. The survey was supported by social media posts and letters were delivered to households within existing RPSs where valid resident permits were held to encourage participation.
- 2.5 The survey sought and encouraged feedback on the five policy areas where more significant operational changes were being proposed. It offered residents, businesses, stakeholders and those with an interest in the delivery and administration of RPSs, the opportunity to help officers to develop and shape the final RPS policy.
- 2.6 An email was sent to all County Council members, as well as members of the Cambridge Joint Area Committee, welcoming any additional publicity and promotion that members could give to the survey.
- 2.7 Whilst the analysis of the responses still needs to be undertaken, the proposed revised policy is expected to be presented and considered by the Highways and Transport Committee in March 2025.

Annual Permits and On-Street Parking Charges increase

- 2.8 As Stage 2 of the RPS Policy review will not commence until spring 2025, and is unlikely to be completed until 2026, it has been proposed, as part of the business planning process for 2025/2026, that current permit prices are increased.
- 2.8 The proposed increase in permit costs reflect the increasing cost of providing this service including all the back-office costs, patrolling and enforcement costs. The ongoing review of resident parking has highlighted a significant shortfall of income from the sales of permits, which necessitates an increase of approximately 10%. The proposed permit fee increases will be presented to the County Council at its meeting on 11 February 2025, along with all other fee and charge increases. Residents would receive a notification letter shortly after the approval of the increases. The proposed charges are set out in Appendix 3.
- 2.9 On-street pay and display charges have been reviewed as part of the Council's business planning process and there are inflationary increases proposed as part of the annual fees and charges review, which will be presented to the County Council at its meeting on 11 February 2025. The increase in charges is focused on areas with substantial demand and will hopefully induce changes to motorists' behaviours. It is also in line with the Council's plan to support active and sustainable travel choices and disincentivise driving into the city by private car. The proposed charges are set out in Appendix 4.

3. Significant Implications

3.1 Finance Implications

The resources and funding required for the RPS Policy review will be covered from within the budget for the service.

All costs to provide resident zones will be met from income from charges.

The proposed price increases will be presented to the County Council on 11 February 2025.

3.2 Legal Implications

No decision is recommended in this paper, and any future decisions would identify specific implications at the appropriate time.

3.3 Risk Implications

The RPS Policy aims to provide clarity and application for the county of Cambridgeshire.

The Council is compliant with the statutory requirements, and the policy assists both officers and members of the public. There are no statutory, legal or risk concerns identified with the Policy proposed.

Potential shortfall of income to meet costs of resident schemes would result in subsidy from the Council's budget.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

No decision is recommended in this paper and any future decisions would identify specific implications at the appropriate time.

The Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for the RPS Policy Review, and it has been noted that this proposal does not impact specifically upon any groups.

3.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications

No decision is recommended in this paper and any future decisions would identify specific implications at the appropriate time.

The principle of managing travel demand through parking supports an overall reduction in car traffic which in turn supports reduced climate change and environmental impacts and sustainable travel choices.

4. Source Documents

4.1 [Resident Parking Scheme Policy | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)