REGENERATION AND HOUSING SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD
17 March 2020

ITEM 6

Report sponsor: Acting Director of Planning, Transportation and Engineering
Report author: Head of Traffic and Transportation

Residential Permit Parking in Derby

Purpose

1.1 This report provides information on permit parking schemes and an update on the implementation of 'virtual' electronic residents permits, following the report to the January 2019 Board.

Recommendation

2.1 To support the continued use of residents parking schemes and the greater flexibility delivered by the introduction of personal management of electronic permits.

Reason(s)

3.1 This report is an update following the report to Board in January 2019.

Supporting information

4.1 Permit parking schemes have become an important and necessary tool in the way the Council maintains the free flow of traffic, by providing targeted management of parking in certain locations. The schemes usually develop from the complaints of residents and/or businesses, where local people are prevented from parking closer to a place they need to access. This can often take the form of sustained indiscriminate or dangerous parking.

4.2 Parking issues can be found in many areas of the city but are often acute in the immediate surroundings of a large attractor building or service - local examples might be the city centre, the football ground, the Royal Derby Hospital and some of the larger district shopping centres.

4.3 If a scheme is proposed, there is a threshold for the proportion of residents that must respond to consultation on its introduction. The majority of residents must accept the proposal. As the schemes generally involve both charging residents and their acceptance of some restrictions, for example on visitors, then the Council's current approach is to work with local people to find a generally acceptable solution, rather than impose change.

4.4 The introduction of permit parking, along with enforcement, is very powerful. It has an immediate and demonstrable effect, often entirely removing the issues. The schemes in Derby have delivered relief for many residents and businesses, but their introduction needs to be weighed against the potential for displacement of the parking behaviour to other areas.

4.5 Since the initial implementation of schemes some general principles and guidelines have been developed, which recognise that places differ according to the locations and the demands of local residents. Whilst there are similarities in the basis of the schemes, each one is a response to local context and concerns. Overwhelmingly resident schemes have been welcomed. Although one area that can be sensitive when implementing schemes, has been visitor permits.

4.6 The introduction of new technology through the MiPermit system, has modernised the whole of parking services. For resident parking schemes this has meant that the issues over visitor permits can be better addressed. The implementation of 'virtual permits', now provides greater flexibility for residents to manage their own permit requirements, without the need to purchase physical tickets, by phoning or visiting the Council House.

4.7 The Council website has been updated to provide the information and links to the MiPermit system. It is simple to negotiate and has been welcomed by users, because it allows for self-management and is adaptable to meet individual needs. The virtual permit system is being integrated into the Council's, 'One Front Door' project.

4.8 The 'Virtual Permit' system was launched in October 2019. The customer group is approximately 4,000. The take up rate is currently just over 70% of residents. Approximately 2,000 visitor permits are used every day. As part of promoting use and creating a smooth transition, residents have been offered 13 month permits for the price of 12 months, when they switch. Any one converting from paper permits within year are also offered an extension.

4.9 The new system has also given us the ability to tackle other situations that we know are important to residents, which the old system could not encompass. This includes offering a new range of visitor permits for general visitors, carers, trades people, etc. This puts power in the hands of residents who have direct control of the management of permits. We know these schemes are operating successfully as the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued has been falling since the scheme was launched.

4.10 Over the coming months additional permit functions will be added to allow residents, who have off street parking to obtain 20 day per year permits for use with their personal vehicle. This will mean that when their driveway is occupied, for example, by skips and building materials, residents can park on the street. This is an issue that has been raised by citizens and Councillors but was impossible to manage under the old system. The permits should be available to residents within schemes and they will be able to choose when to use them.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 Information relating to complaints, issues and frustrations with the old schemes has been used to inform the virtual permit system and will continue to be used for any further developments. It is important to recognise that where residents have accepted the implementation of a scheme, then they are generally popular. The principle has always been that the schemes need to support the residents and continue to be viewed by them as effective and worth the annual cost.

Other options

6.1 No other options are considered in relation to this report.

Financial and value for money issues

7.1   None arising from this report.

Legal implications

8.1   None arising from this report.

Other significant implications

9.1   None arising from this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	N/A	
Finance	N/A	
Service Director(s):	Verna Bayliss, Acting Director of Planning and Transportation	05 March 2020
Report sponsor	As above	
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None	
List of appendices:	None	