



ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PANEL'S REVIEW OF THE RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME

Purpose - The overall aim of the Scrutiny investigation was to review the operation, boundaries and effectiveness of the current Residents' Parking Scheme in Middlesbrough. To consider the findings of, and comment on, the recommendations of the Faber Maunsell report into residents' parking in Middlesbrough which is being developed during the period of the scrutiny review.

Findings – The panel considered the current scheme and the main issues regarding parking for residents in Middlesbrough. The panel were interested to look at whether or not the scheme's boundaries were sufficient to cope with current and future demand for parking, whether a charge for a permit should be introduced, whether or not any improvements could be made to the current scheme and comparisons with other local authority schemes.

Running alongside the panel's review, was a review that was being undertaken by consultants Faber Maunsell, on the Council's behalf. The information received by the consultants gave the panel an excellent opportunity to be able to consider information from residents/business questionnaires and on site surveys and to consider the consultants' findings and recommendations.

The consultants focussed their review in two pilot areas. One, where there is a residents' parking zone in place and which is the area defined as the streets bounded by Linthorpe Road, Borough Road, Union Street and Parliament Road. This was to establish if there was a need for the scheme to be extended. The other involved the streets surrounding the University to establish if there was a need for a scheme.

The panel heard information regarding the requests for new schemes and how those schemes were prioritised in order of importance. The panel was also wanted to ensure that the needs of local businesses were taken into account in the extension or introduction of a scheme.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on evidence given throughout the investigation the Panel concluded:

- a) The panel recognised the importance of reviewing the existing schemes and the assessment of the need for new schemes, in the light of many requests from the public. The panel considered that the methodology proposed by the consultants for prioritising new schemes would be helpful in the future and would enable the council to focus on those schemes that were most needed.
- b) In light of the recognition of this approach in prioritising new schemes, the panel agreed with the priorities for the potential RPZs that were outlined by the consultants.
- c) The panel emphasised the importance of the consideration for local businesses located within such schemes.
- d) There is no capital budget for the implementation of new RPZs. The Council have always ensured that the scheme is free for residents to ensure that they are afforded the same rights as those who live outside of RPZs. However the panel considered that, whilst residents' permits should still be issued at no cost to the resident, a small administrative charge for visitors' permits would be acceptable and would help with the costs of running the schemes.
- e) Following the recommendations by the consultants regarding the area surrounding the university, it was recognised that there were parking problems in this area and that more consultation should take place, working with the local community and the university

- f) A number of requests had been received regarding the problems match day parking can create in the Ormesby area. The panel appreciated the reasons for this area being a low priority, however the panel considered that further thought be given to this issue in the future.
- g) The consultants' report made a number of recommendations about the administration of the scheme, which were based on the survey evidence and comparisons with other local authorities. The panel was supportive of those recommendations that are outlined in paragraph 67.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8. That the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive:
 - a) That the Council maintains its policy of free parking for residents. However in order to cover the costs of administering the scheme, the panel concurred with the consultants, and agreed that a nominal charge for visitors' parking of £5 per book of 25 scratch cards should be introduced as should the £80 charge for a business permit. However the panel considered the situation regarding charging for permits should be reviewed in 2 years.
 - b) In recognition of the capital costs needed in order to set up any new residents' parking scheme, provision should be made within the capital budget for such schemes and in order to plan for the cost of the possible introduction of electronic parking permits in the future.
 - c) To limit the effect on local businesses, where they are located within RPZs, provision should be made, where possible, for 1 hour limited stay spaces to allow customers to be able to park and access shops etc.
 - d) That further consideration be given to the problems created by match day parking, especially in regard to consideration of the provision of a rail halt outside the stadium.
 - e) That further consultation is undertaken in the university area, in order to alleviate the parking problems in that area.