

Brighton & Hove City Council

Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

Agenda Item 26

Subject: Parking Policies update report

Date of meeting: 20th September 2022

Report of: Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture

Contact Officer: Name: Jenny Mitchell
Tel: 01273 292245
Email: jenny.mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For General Release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update committee on the amendments made to the Customer Services section of the Parking Policies agreed at this Committee in June 2021. This further committee approval is required due to the changes being proposed.

1.2 The amendments include making additions to the Customer Services policy for;

- 'Car Free' developments.
- Surcharges for multiple vehicles in a household.
- Professional Carers.
- Event Day parking permits.
- Car Clubs.
- Off-street car park permits.

1.3 This report summarises the formalisation of the procedures already in place, promotes consistency and supports officers in their decision making as well as formalising new policies within Customer Services. These proposals are additions to the existing Parking Services Policy (Appendix A).

1.4 This report also highlights a number of improvements for customers and certain groups and takes into account Fraud and Audit Report recommendations made and actioned over the last few years.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That Committee approves the new Parking Policy statement with the additions and amendments highlighted in red to the Customer Service policy within the Parking Services Policy (Appendix A) taking into consideration the summary in this report.

3 Context and background information

- 3.1 Historically, when additional types of parking permits have been taken forward this has been in a piecemeal fashion, without considering the opportunities for modernisation and consolidation. Customers regularly complain about whether some of the permits, badges and passes are fit for purpose and give anecdotal accounts of where they may be being abused.
- 3.2 An operational review of parking permits took place and was agreed at the Environment, Transport & Sustainable Committee on the 21st January 2020 and a number of amendments to the permits were agreed.
- 3.3 The review focused on identifying and recommending which permits were fit for purpose (no change required). The report also identified permits that required further investigation by taking into consideration complaints, concerns and comments made by members of the public.
- 3.4 The additions made to the Customer Service Policy in Appendix A are the proposals linked to the review of Parking Permits as agreed at the Environment, Transport & Sustainable Committee in January 2020.
- 3.5 The majority of these additions will be implemented in line with the migration of all permits to the Mendix system over the next few months.
- 3.6 Car Free Development status, previously managed by Planning, is now outlined in the Parking Customer Services Policy Document (Appendix A). The approach has changed since January 2022 following appeal decisions against use of a condition and legal advice. It has been agreed that this will now be directly managed by Parking Services via the ongoing Traffic Regulation Order process, with planning and highways advising on TRO amendments to make sites 'car-free' via an informative to be added to planning permissions.

4 Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The main alternative is to not include the additions to the Policy which would mean that the Parking Policy Statement would not cover all permit types.
- 4.2 A number of different options have been considered through a comprehensive review and we are putting forward the options that are feasible and achievable taking into account the needs of our customers. Therefore, it is the recommendation of officers to proceed for the reasons that are outlined within the report.

5 Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The Parking Policies are also directly linked to improving access to the city for people with a mobility disability by allowing Blue Badge holders to continue to park in permit bays in Light Touch parking schemes and encouraging residents to make choices that support the Council's carbon neutral strategy.

5.2 The amendments to the Customer Service Policy are a conclusion of the parking review, agreed in January 2020 and therefore no further community engagement/consultation was necessary.

5.3 We have engaged with Parking Services management in the formulation of the Car Free Policy.

6 Conclusion

6.1 As set out in the body of the report and the recommendations, we seek for approval of the additions /amendments to the Parking Customer Services Policy.

7 Financial implications

7.1 The implementation of the recommendations in this report for changes to the Parking Customer Services Policy has no additional financial implications. Any administrative costs associated with these changes will be met from existing Parking Services revenue budgets.

7.2 In the case of on-street parking permits any surplus income from civil parking enforcement, after taking into account costs, is governed by section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. This requires the defined Parking Surplus to be used for transport and highways related projects and expenditure such as supported bus services, concessionary fares, Local Transport Plan projects and environmental improvements. Where the Council also funds transport and highways related budgets from its General Fund budget, increases to the Parking Surplus can be lawfully applied to this expenditure, which can thereby release the equivalent General Fund resources. The Council may use the released resources for any purpose within its duties and powers, including releasing resources for savings.

Name of finance officer consulted: Jill Scarfield Date consulted (23/08/22):

8 Legal implications

8.1 Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the Council has the power to authorise the use of parking places by vehicular traffic or by vehicular traffic of any class or on any part of a road within it's area. The new Parking Policy Statement detailed within this report will help to ensure consistency in the exercise of this power by the Council's Parking Services teams and correct compliance with the recommendations in the Fraud & Audit report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Alice Rowland Date consulted: 19/8/22

9 Equalities implications

9.1 No implications identified

10 Sustainability implications

10.1 No sustainability implications identified

11 Other Implications

None

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendix A – Parking Policy Statement

2. Background documents

1. ETS Committee – 21st January 2020 – Agenda Item 63

2. ETS Committee - 22nd June 2021 - Agenda Item 16