

Place Select Committee
Review of Residents Parking Zones
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

- Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm
- People are supported and protected from harm.
 - People live healthy lives.
- Making the Borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed
- A growing economy.

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

The Council has only a “high level” policy regarding (Residents’ Parking Zones (RPZs) which has not been fully reviewed since 2004. There are regular requests for them from residents living near town and local shopping centres as well as near traffic generating facilities such as hospitals and schools. Many residents think that RPZ’s are a panacea with no downsides. The reality is that there are a range of issues that could arise out of them e.g. costs to residents and visitors, no guarantee of a parking space for residents or visitors, issues with enforcement, potential loss of parking spaces, moving the problem to areas immediately outside any residents parking zone etc.

To fully investigate the need for a Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) requires a reasonable amount of staff resources and has a financial impact on the Council but ultimately leads to the majority of requests being turned down either because there are no justifiable reasons to implement a scheme or because they are not supported by the majority of residents. An updated and more detailed policy and procedure might result in fewer resident requests and a more efficient way of dealing with these thereby saving both money and officer time. The ongoing administration, maintenance and enforcement of these schemes are also an ongoing burden on Council resources.

There is limited publicly available information on how the Council assesses a request and further clarity as to the role of ward councillors would be useful. Councillors can find themselves in an

invidious position if they are asked whether they support a request without having the results of the investigation arising from the request itself.

Residents have understandable desire to be able to park near their homes however the full consequences of implementing a RPZ to residents are not always clear when initially requesting a scheme.

A review would tie in with the Council's town centre regeneration proposals. There is an important interface between encouraging businesses and customers and impact on residents living nearby requiring a balance to be struck. Areas where demand on parking is oversubscribed can lead to road safety and accessibility issues especially to those who are mobility impaired.

RPZ's can help keep people safe and healthy by managing parking in areas where it is oversubscribed to ensure roads and pavements are safe to use by all. Correctly balancing the needs of residential and business-related parking can also help support jobs and the economy.

The overall aim of the review would be to inform the objectives and components of a revised policy on PRZs to be contained within the revised Car Parking Policy for the Borough.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is the legislative framework for RPZs?
- What is the Council's current policy and approach?
- What sorts of areas generate the most requests for RPZs?
- What are the issues for local businesses?
- What are the issues for residents?
- How can we balance the needs of residents and local business?
- What are the pros and cons of an RPZ? How are these communicated to residents?
- What issues are experienced in and around areas where RPZs are introduced?
- What are the costs to the Local Residents? Should this be reviewed?
- What approach do other Tees Valley Local Authorities take?
- What are the objectives of a Residents Parking Scheme?
- What should the components of a new policy be?
- How should Members be involved in the process?
- Could the process be streamlined/ made more efficient?
- How should the Council publicise the policy?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet. Council.

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

6 months:

Approve scope and project plan – 15 November 2021

Receive evidence – December 2021 – February 2022

Draft recommendations – 21 March 2022

Final report – April 2022

Report to Cabinet – May 2022

<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>Legislation Council Policy</p> <p>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</p> <p>SBC Officers</p> <p>Enforcement</p> <p>Tees Valley Councils</p> <p>Local Business</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p>		<p>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background information • Legislative framework • Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front line feedback on the issues experienced in and around RPZs • How effective are they? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Council practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues for local businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' feedback
<p>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, surveys, research.</p>		
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions.</p>		
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics. Public bodies must have due regard to the need to encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.</p>		
<p>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023</u>: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities.</p>		

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

The overall aim of the review would be to inform the objectives and components of a revised policy on PRZs to be contained within the revised Car Parking Policy for the Borough and provide:

- Updated clear and transparent policy and procedures for assessing the need and implementing RPZ's
- Full information available to residents on the pros and cons of a RPZ so that they can make informed decisions about whether to request one in the first place
- Minimise the cost to Council of investigating, introducing, enforcing and ongoing administration of RPZ's
- Clarification of the role of ward councillors in the process for determining whether a scheme is progressed or not

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	October 2021	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	4 November 2021	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	15 November 2021	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBD	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Background presentation Enforcement issues Other LA practice Business perspective Survey Feedback	13 December 2021 17 January 2022 21 February 2022	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	21 March 2022	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	March / April 2022	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	April 2022	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	17 May 2022	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	19 May 2022	Cabinet / Approving Body