

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 17th January, 2022.

Present: Cllr Chris Barlow (Chair) Cllr Mohammed Javed (Vice Chair), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Maurice Perry (sub for Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE), Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Hilary Vickers.

Officers: Marc Stephenson, Richard Bradford, Joanne Roberts, Tony Wrigglesworth (CS&T), Judy Trainer, Abbie Wild (MD).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

PLA 32/21 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

PLA 33/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PLA 34/21 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 13 December 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

PLA 35/21 Scrutiny Review of Residents Parking Zones

Members received a presentation outlining:

- Key lines of enquiry
- Current policy and approach
- Current process
- Existing RPZs
- Approach of other Tees Valley Authorities
- Approach of other Local Authorities
- Costs of introducing RPZs
- Issues surrounding the enforcement of RPZs

The key issues highlighted as part of the presentation and during discussion were as follows:

- There were 32 Civic Enforcement Officers (including 12 to take up post from 1 February 2022). The Enforcement Team was a multi-disciplinary team with numerous responsibilities; parking contraventions were just one of their priorities
- 629 PCNs had been issued in the previous year for parking offences; it was difficult to identify enforcement costs due to the multi-disciplinary nature of their work
- The team were reactive but also operated on an intelligence led

approach; as RPZs often bordered town centres, they were incorporated into patrol routes

- Members commented on the low number of residents permits issued and questioned why this was the case and if this suggested that the RPZs were not serving their original purpose
- Members noted that an RPZ scheme could not be introduced on a single street and questioned whether this policy was appropriate in all cases, for example, in relation to streets with problems of parking over driveways
- Members noted that Stockton was the only Borough in the Tees Valley to have a limit on the number of permits permitted per household. Officers explained that previously there had been abuse of permits to facilitate parking for local businesses and, as a result, a full consultation exercise had been carried out and visitor passes limited to two per property
- A PCN imposed a fine of £50, reduced to £25 if paid within 7 days
- Members noted that increasing the price of permits would generate more income for enforcement and also discussed whether different fees might be introduced for different RPZs rather than a universal fee
- 9% of parking fines were in relation to RPZs – a more detailed breakdown could be provided to a future meeting
- Further details relating to schemes in Bath and North East Somerset and Vale of Glamorgan would be circulated by email to Members
- A draft of the Member on-line survey would be circulated to all Select Committee Member for comment before being issued to all Councillors

AGREED that the presentation be noted and further information be provided in relation to:

- The reason for the low take up of permits in RPZs
- Who the visitor permits are for?
- A breakdown of parking fines

PLA 36/21 Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges

The Select Committee considered a progress update following implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Parking on Grass Verges.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Members were pleased with the success of the new approach introduced as part of the scrutiny review in deterring repeated verge parking
- Members commented on the difficulties of enforcing verge parking on private land such as on trading estates. Officers commented that where land was not Council owned, the Council was reliant on communication and engagement with landowners to encourage them to enforce restrictions
- Members asked that the Supplementary Planning Documents on visitor parking be brought back to the Select Committee in due course

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed.

PLA Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme

37/21

Members were informed that a separate, remote evidence gathering session would be arranged to receive input from business representatives.

The Chair highlighted the response that had been emailed to all Members of the Select Committee providing an update into reported flooding at Durham Road Cemetery.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.