

REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report No.10

Date of Meeting	23 rd October 2007
Title of Report	UPDATE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEMES IN NORTH WILTSHIRE
Link to Corporate Priorities	Transport
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To inform the Committee of the current position in regard to Residents Parking Schemes in North Wiltshire.

Officer Recommendations

That the Committee note the report.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is prepared by the Senior Parking Officer to update members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the current position in regard to Residents Parking Schemes in North Wiltshire.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: For the committee to note and accept the report.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 North Wiltshire District Council introduced Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in partnership with Wiltshire County Council using powers under the Road Traffic Act 1991 in September 2006.
- 3.2 As part of the partnership agreement Wiltshire county Council agreed to progress Residents Parking Schemes (RPS) where required. WCC, in partnership with the districts of Wiltshire, have produced a Wiltshire Policy for the introduction of Residents Parking Schemes and also guidance for the introduction of RPS. Once this policy is agreed at WCC, the policy will be submitted to the Executive for approval in North Wiltshire. The policy and guidance (attached as Appendix 1 and 2 in draft form) states the restrictions and the limitations of the schemes including the costs and number of permits available for issue.
- 3.3 In late 2006, the Car Park Working Group and the Portfolio Holder for Car Parks decided formally that Chippenham was the main area of need for RPS due to the number of requests received. To progress and reduce the timeframes necessary to implement RPS in North Wiltshire, NWDC asked RTA Associates to provide a report on the areas within Chippenham that request for RPS had been received. This report formed part of the Parking Strategy due to go to the Executive Council in Autumn 2007.
- 3.4 On the 16th August 2007, the Portfolio Holder for Built Environment and the Senior Parking Officer met with representatives from WCC to progress the first schemes in Chippenham. As the changes to implement RPS are significant WCC have agreed to make the implementation part of a Town Centre review of all parking restrictions to address long standing inconsistencies and make necessary improvements.
- 3.5 The area for the first zones have been agreed in principle and the consultation will be dispatched to all affected households within the proposed zone once finalised by WCC. To progress the scheme further NWDC have agreed to circulate and collate responses to the scheme. The consultation makes clear to all affected residents the number of permits available, the cost per permit, the limits to the zone and reiterates that a permit does not guarantee a space in their road or indeed within the zone.
- 3.6 Further progression beyond the consultation depends on a high level of support from the affected households. If there is not a high level of support the scheme will be dropped. Due to the legal processes to make the Traffic Regulation Orders upon the highway, any objections received later in the process requires the process to be restarted from the beginning.

4. Human Resource Implications

- 4.1 The issue and monitor of Residents Parking Schemes is labour intensive when the schemes first start and at the renewal dates. All application must be checked to ensure the applicant fulfils all criteria and is allowed a permit. All documents must be scanned into the system and indexed against the application. Within the suggested zones it is anticipated that there is in the region of 700 properties and 1000 vehicles that will be eligible to apply.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 All Disabled Driver Blue Badge holders who are residents within the zone are eligible for a permit within the scheme upon payment of the required fee.
- 5.2 Blue badge holders who are non-residents would be permitted to park in a RPS on yellow line restrictions under the national regulations and concessions for legitimate badge holders. It may be necessary to consider whether any further concessions would be appropriate e.g. within the 'permit holders only bays' themselves with or without time limit, to reduce the possibility of vehicles being parked obstructively on other restrictions at junctions etc.

6. Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Although there is no requirement for the Council to provide parking for any member of the public, within central areas where there is a lack of off street parking facilities if appropriate the Council may investigate the development of Resident Parking Schemes. This could be classed by members of the public who do not live within the zone to be a benefit to the resident within the zone and can lead to negative publicity. Therefore it must be made clear in publicity that all costs associated with the scheme will be paid by the residents of the zone.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 All vehicles within the zone who wish to be allocated a permit must provide proof of vehicle ownership and residency. This can lead to a reduction of unregistered vehicles on the road.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The scheme is designed to be self funding.

9. Risk Analysis

- 9.1 There are no specific risks associated with the introduction of Resident Parking Schemes beyond those highlighted above.

Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WCC residents parking policy (Draft) 2. WCC resident parking guidance (Draft)
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		