

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	Cabinet
DATE:	24 th July 2019
SUBJECT:	Annual Residents Parking Review
REPORT FROM:	Councillor A. Quinn – Cabinet Member For Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Dave Brown, Interim Director of Operations
TYPE OF DECISION:	Key Decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>Bury Council currently has 11 residents parking zones across the Borough. The first residents parking scheme was introduced approximately 20 years ago. Around 6,000 permits are now issued per annum.</p> <p>In order to provide a transparent framework for determining the appropriateness of a scheme, a policy has been developed that sets out the process in relation to considering residents parking requests.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>RECOMMENDED OPTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The residents parking policy contained in Appendix 1 is adopted so that over 50% of the properties affected must be in favour of a scheme for it to be implemented. 2. A minimum of 10 properties must indicate support to initiate the Council to investigate a residents parking scheme request. 3. The costs and fees associated with all residents parking schemes are reviewed annual as part of the budget setting process with the objective of being cost neutral. 4. Each scheme will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that they continue to be supported by the local community and demonstrate value for money.

	<p>OTHER OPTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to implement schemes where the majority of consultation responses in favour, regardless of the level of response. 2. Continue to investigate residents parking schemes on request without any evidence of wider public community support. 3. Not review existing schemes to determine if they continue to be supported by the community and represent value for money.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	The recommendation is supported as it will help to address under-recovery of administration costs. In any case, charges for existing schemes should be subject to thorough review in order to achieve cost neutrality.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No issues identified.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes JH The key elements of a lawful policy are that it should be published, be consistent with the statutory context and allow for exceptions when applied.
Wards Affected:	ALL
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: Interim Director of Operations

Chief Executive/ Joint Executive Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
24/06/19	22/03/19		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The objective of a residents parking scheme is to provide car-owning residents with a reasonable chance of being able to park near to their homes where regular and frequent parking of non-residents regularly prevents this. It is intended for those who cannot provide off-street parking within the curtilage of their property, rather than those who choose not to provide it.
- 1.2 It should be recognised that no car owner has a right to park on any specific section of the highway and it should, therefore, also be recognised that residents parking schemes will never guarantee the car-owning resident a parking space.
- 1.3 Implementing and enforcing residents parking schemes is costly. Consequently, they will only be considered for such treatment where all potential alternatives are thought to be inappropriate and where the schemes in themselves will not create other traffic related problems.
- 1.4 It is recognised that local businesses situated in residential areas play a valuable part in the community and it is not intended to exclude these businesses but to try and also consider their needs and include them where possible into proposed schemes.
- 1.5 The needs of visitors, essential callers and the disabled also have to be considered.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 In the last 20 years the cost of purchasing a residents permit has increased from £15 to £30. However, the time involved in issuing and administering permits combined with an increase in queries, complaints and enforcement requests means that the current charge is likely to be under recovering costs.
- 2.2 Some zones were implemented before a residents parking policy was adopted. There are a number of streets in those zones that have sufficient off-street parking provision. In streets that have some off street parking facilities there is resentment from residents regarding restrictions within the zone. In particular residents object to purchasing permits. Therefore a large number of residents choose to only apply for a free visitor permit for the property and park their vehicle off road. There is currently no charge for the first visitor permit for any property. The work involved in administering this is exactly the same as that carried out for a resident permit which is charged at £30 per annum.
- 2.3 The average return rate for resident parking scheme consultations is typically around 15 - 20%. Schemes have been introduced if it receives over 50% support on the returned responses. Consequently the views of all affected residents are not being reflected. This causes issues once a scheme has been implemented as it does not have ownership by everyone affected by the decision. It undermines the legitimacy of the scheme of the scheme as it does not reflect the majority of views in the area.
- 2.4 Residents parking requests are received by the Council frequently. Every individual request is currently investigated. On most occasions a request comes

from one property without any wider support within the community. In order to address this it is proposed that a minimum threshold of 10 properties is required to trigger an investigation by the Council.

- 2.5 Currently once schemes are implemented they remain in place indefinitely, regardless of changing local circumstances. It is proposed that schemes are reviewed every 5 years.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 2.6 It is proposed that the revised residents parking policy provides a more comprehensive guidance that officers can follow. It provides clarity regarding the minimum figures of support that should be achieved in order to progress and implement a scheme.

List of Background Papers:-

None

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