

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

BRANT ROAD, SCUNTHORPE – PERMITS FOR RESIDENTS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval to increase the charge for a permit to bring in line with other resident parking schemes.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet Member approval for an annual renewal of the permits.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Residents of Brant Road can currently apply for a permit that exempts them from the one hour parking restriction in place on Brant Road. This was introduced in 1987 and followed complaints that hospital workers were using the street to park all day.
- 2.2 The scheme applies to 40 addresses. A charge of £10 is currently made to offset administrative costs. The permits are currently renewed every other year. They are next due for renewal on 31 October 2011.
- 2.3 Following the introduction of civil parking enforcement, a resident parking scheme was established in Brigg. The council's Traffic Team is currently exploring introducing similar schemes at a number of other locations.
- 2.4 Permits for the Brigg scheme are renewed annually. They cost £50. It would be good practice to have a consistent annual charge across all residents' parking schemes. We could then review the charge as part of the council's charging framework.
- 2.5 Many other councils operate similar schemes. Charges generally vary between £10 and £300 per year. A charge of £50 per year is not unusual.
- 2.6 New schemes need to recover any start-up costs. The Brigg scheme was based on a five-year payback.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Officers suggest the following options for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.1.1 **Option 1** – To approve an increase from £10 for two years to £50 annually, for the cost of a permit

3.1.2 **Option 2** – To phase in the increase over say 4 years, in £10 increments.

3.1.3 **Option 3** – To adopt a differential pricing whereby for the first 5 years of a scheme, £50pa is charged, but thereafter, a lesser figure to reflect administration costs, say £25pa. Brant Road would therefore be based on £25pa.

3.1.4 **Option 4**– To retain the £10 cost for a two-year permit.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1 - To have different levels of charges for different schemes is inconsistent. The current £10 cost for the Brant Road permits needs reviewing. It does not cover administrative costs. This option would provide a consistent approach across North Lincolnshire.

Option 2 - This would give a consistent approach to charges for residents' parking schemes. Residents of Brant Road would benefit from a phasing in of the increase.

Option 3 – This would reflect the start-up costs of schemes but allow residents to benefit from a lower cost once recovered. This would be complex. We are not aware of any other council that takes this approach.

Option 4 - This would be out of line with the current and any future scheme and would lead to inconsistency.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 It is important that residents parking is self-funding.

5.2 There are no staffing, property or IT issues associated with this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory

6.1.1 There is a statutory requirement to issue permits to residents to exempt them from a traffic regulation order.

6.2 Environmental

6.2.1 There are no environmental issues.

6.3 Diversity

6.3.1 Officers have completed a Diversity Impact Assessment covering this matter.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder

6.4.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

6.5 Risk and Other Implications

6.5.1 There are no risk and other implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The charge for residents was last increased in 1997. It went up from £7.50 to £10. Residents have previously objected to suggestions of any further increase.

7.2 We have contacted other councils who operate similar schemes. They suggest that a charge of £50 is consistent with other schemes in the region. Residents in Brigg have responded positively to a charge of £50. They have viewed this as a reasonable charge in return for the benefits of having a scheme in place. As such, a consistent charge of £50 appears reasonable. This would bring the scheme operating in Brant Road into line with other similar schemes. We are not aware of any other council charging a reduced fee after five years.

7.3 Residents could of course choose not to renew their parking permits. Most have off street parking available to them.

7.4 Ward members have commented that

- They have received few if any objections to such permitted parking. However, the costs to be imposed need to be capable of reflecting similar requests for permits elsewhere in the future. They have mentioned the survey on possible residents parking in the area from Exeter Road to Oswald Road.
- The Brant Road permit seems an appropriate solution to the above providing the cost level is reasonable and self-financing either in the short or long term.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves Option 1, to adopt £50pa for an annual permit on all residents' car parking schemes including Brant Road.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None