

Agenda Item No.15
Tabled report

TO: JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 16 MARCH 2009
SUBJECT: PETITION – RESIDENTS PARKING PERMITS
BY: Executive Member for Regeneration and Head of Environmental Services
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report in response to a petition from residents in Rock Road, Burley Road and Epps Road, Sittingbourne objecting to the increase in charges for residents parking permits. The report explains the increases that will come into effect on the 1st April 2009 and how the income generated will be applied.

Implications:

Human Resources Implications: None
Finance Implications: Additional Income generated from increased charges that will be used to support the decriminalised parking service.
Legal Implications: None
Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17): none
Equalities & Diversity Implications: None
Sustainability Implications: None
Risk and Health and Safety Implications: None
Corporate Plan Implications: Improving Community safety through safer highways.

Decision Required: **That Members note the petition and that a further review of the operation of the residents parking scheme in the Rock, Burley, and Epps Road will be undertaken in the Spring.**

Introduction

1. A petition has been received regarding the increase in residents parking permits which is due to come into effect from 1st April 2009. The petition reads as follows:

“As a resident of the scheme in Rock Road, Burley Road, Ufton Lane and Epps Road.

I Strongly object to the price increase in the parking charges which the Council wish to implement on the 1st April 2009”

2. The petition has 98 signatures representing residents of 77 properties in Rock Road, Burley Road and Epps Road where there are a total of 224 properties. There were no signatures from residents in Ufton Lane.

Background

3. Residents parking zones currently operate in Faversham and Sittingbourne and the charge for permits was set at £30/annum. The first residents parking scheme introduced in Faversham has been in operation for 18 years and there is no record of an increase in permit charges over this period. However, the scheme in the area covered by the petition has only been in operation since August 2008.

4. The scheme also included the provision of 10 visitor vouchers free of charge when each permit was renewed. The charge for additional visitor day vouchers being £1 each.

5. As part of a review of fees and charges the Councils Executive agreed that the charge for a residents permit be increased to £40/annum and that visitor day vouchers are no longer issued with the permits but remain available to be purchased by residents within the parking zone at £1 each. The increase in charges will come into effect on 1st April 2009.

6. The income from residents parking forms part of the decriminalised parking account and is used to cover the cost of administration, enforcement and the implementation and development of residents parking schemes together with the maintenance of lines and signs. It is estimated that the changes will result in an additional income of £40,000 and must be used for parking/highway improvement measures and cannot be used to contribute to the council's general revenue funds. In the previous financial year there was a £25,369 operating deficit on the decriminalised parking account.

7. The recruitment of two Civil Enforcement Officers is currently taking place to bring the service to a full establishment and patrol rotas will be reviewed to improve the level of enforcement within the residents parking schemes.

8. In line with current practice following the introduction of new or extended resident parking schemes a review of the operation of the Rock, Burley, and Epps Road scheme will be undertaken during the Spring. This will focus on how effectively the scheme is operating so that minor changes can be made to the layout if appropriate. Any significant issues affecting the scheme would be reported back to the Joint Transportation Board.

Recommendation

9. That Members note the petition and that a further review of the operation of the residents parking scheme in the Rock, Burley, and Epps Road will be undertaken in the Spring.