

Cabinet 9 March 2022	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director of Place	Classification: Unrestricted
Service Action Plan: How parking permit policy can influence people’s behaviour	

Lead Member	Councillor Kahar Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm
Originating Officer(s)	Dan Jones, Divisional Director of Public Realm Michael Darby, Head of Parking and Mobility Services
Wards affected	All Wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Reason for Key Decision	Significant impact on wards
Forward Plan Notice Published	11 January 2022
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Priority 2 - A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in

Executive Summary

This report submits the Service Action Plan response to the Parking scrutiny challenge session report and recommendations on “the extent to which the councils parking permit policy influences people’s behaviour”.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Consider the report of the Parking scrutiny challenge on “the extent to which the councils parking permit policy influences people’s behaviour” and agree the service action plan in response to the report recommendations.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council’s constitution requires the Executive to respond to the recommendations from the OSC.
- 1.2 The attached report is the Executive’s response to the scrutiny recommendations arising from the Parking scrutiny challenge session’s “the extent to which the councils parking permit policy influences people’s

behaviour”.

- 1.3 Tower Hamlets has a growing population which is projected to reach approximately 360,000 by 2027 and the use of vehicles continues to be the key mode of people moving around the borough. It helps people to get to work, stay in touch with friends and family, contribute to society and enables access to vital services like healthcare.
- 1.4 The impact of Covid-19 could lead to reduced demand if more people continue to work from home, but equally there are significant new developments and infrastructure projects planned in the borough over the next decade which is likely to significantly impact parking
- 1.5 The impact of specific influences such as ULEZ expansion, car free developments, Permit Transfer Scheme, hotspot areas and the switch to electric vehicles as we try to tackle the climate emergency.
- 1.6 Parking is an integral element of not only the transport strategy but also many of the other council’s priorities and aspirations

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To take no action. This is not recommended as the scrutiny challenge session provides an evidence base to demonstrate that the council has drawn on and has applied best practice to the activities that have been undertaken to improve the service and residents’ experience.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Transport Strategy came to overview & Scrutiny Committee in Oct 2019 and included actions for parking
- 3.2 The scope of the scrutiny challenge session was to examine:
 - How the council’s current parking permit scheme influences people’s behaviour on parking.
 - The impact on the scheme from more car free dwellings, the introduction of ULEZ boundaries extended and the drive to switch to electric vehicles; and
 - What can we learn from others approach as part of developing a longer-term sustainable parking solutions?
- 3.3 Desired outcome for the challenge session was to establish the extent to which the councils parking permit policy influences people’s behaviour
- 3.4 Following the challenge session on 03 November 2021, the service has developed action plan based on the recommendation which came out of the session.
- 3.5 The committee heard evidence from external experts and officers from within Public Realm and Strategy and the Performance Team.

- 3.6 The challenge session report outlines the scope and methodology used for the session. The report also presents key findings from the evidence gathered from the challenge session.
- 3.7 The report acknowledged that parking management and delivery continues to evolve. The impact of Covid-19 could lead to reduced demand if more people continue to work from home, but equally there are significant new developments and infrastructure projects planned in the borough over the next decade which will likely significantly impact parking. Therefore, this report considers some of the challenges that the council's Parking and Mobility Service face when managing the highway and traffic and what mitigation is needed to meet future demand.
- 3.8 The report makes a number of recommendations for the council and its partners to consider and put into action the extent to which the council's parking permit policy influences people's behaviour.
- 3.9 The recommendations are grouped under key findings which can be found in the full challenge session report attached at Appendix 2.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendations within the report and proposals in the service action plan will make a positive impact on parking within the Borough, which will be beneficial for all regardless of their background.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 The London Plan 2021 sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the developments of London over the next 20-25 years
- 5.3 The Local Plan sets out how the borough of Tower Hamlets will grow and develop from now until 2031. Tower Hamlets parking policy is set out in Policy D.TR3 (Parking and permit-free) of the Local Plan.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly emanating from this report which outlines the Service Action Plan response to the Parking scrutiny challenge session report and recommendations on “the extent to which the councils parking permit policy influences people’s behaviour”. Any costs in developing the response have been contained within existing budget provision.
- 6.2 Any financial implications resulting from the implementation of the action plan will be the subject of separate reports.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty as traffic authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to ensure, as far as possible, the safe and efficient movement of traffic in the borough. Parking permits are a common method of traffic control used by traffic authorities. The duty regulate the use of highways and roads for movement and parking will become more challenging in the years to come having regard to the projected population growth and forecasted increase of development and infrastructure in the borough.
- 7.2 The Service Action Plan response to the Parking scrutiny challenge session report and recommendations on “the extent to which the council's parking permit policy influences people’s behaviour” on parking will enable the Council to respond to the challenges ahead in line with its statutory duty having regard also, to the Government’s measures to tackle the climate emergency

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Parking Service Action Plan
- Appendix 2: Overview and Scrutiny Challenge session report

Officer contact details for documents:

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