


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Monday, 13 December 2021</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Sharon Godman Director of Strategy Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Scrutiny challenge session report: The extent to which the council's parking permit policy influences people's behaviour</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Filuck Miah Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>(All Wards);</p>

Executive Summary

This report sets out the findings and recommendations from the Scrutiny Challenge Session on the extent to which the council's parking permit policy influence's people's behaviour. The Report makes eight recommendations for agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the attached Overview and Scrutiny Challenge Session Report and agree the recommendations; and
2. Agree to submit the attached report to the Mayor and Cabinet for executive response to the recommendations;

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This paper submits the report and recommendations of the scrutiny challenge session on the extent to which the council's parking permit policy influence's people's behaviour for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To take no action. This is not recommended as the scrutiny challenge session provides recommendations for the council's parking and mobility service as parking is cross cutting and an integral part for delivering council's priorities such as post pandemic recovery.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Tower Hamlets has a densely growing population projected to reach approximately 360,000 by 2027 and the use of transport plays an important role in supporting people to manage their lives such as getting to work, staying in touch with friends and family and provides transportation access to vital services such as education and healthcare. The British Parking Association suggests that parking continues to frustrate both drivers and non-drivers alike but that it remains an important transport component in people's everyday life, with many holding opposing views for and against on the subject.
- 3.2 The challenge session report also seeks to examine the impact of the certain influences such as ULEZ expansion, car free developments, Permit Transfer Scheme, hotspot areas and the switch to electric vehicles as the borough looks to tackle the climate emergency.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a scrutiny challenge session on 3rd November 2021 focussing on the extent to which the council's parking permit policy influence's people's behaviour and it was chaired by Cllr Faroque Ahmed.
- 3.4 The challenge session was underpinned by the following:
- How will the council manage the future demand for parking provision with the projected population growth and also support post pandemic business growth?
 - How will the council continue to maintain its current levels of parking surplus given the extrinsic change factors
 - How has the council encouraged residents and businesses to switch to EV's and ensure they understand the implications for ULEZ expansion scheme and any insights that helps to understand residents behaviour and receptiveness to change, particularly those from lower economic background?
 - What has been the feedback from residents to date? How well is the transfer scheme working and level of monitoring in place to detect and manage online fraud?

- Learning from others on how they use parking to achieve other key priorities including reduction of air pollution, encouraging health lifestyles, prioritising economic recovery, reducing the reliance on cars.

3.5 The challenge session involved a range of stakeholders including:

- Cabinet Member for Highway and Public Realm and supported by council officers;
- Director for Capital Traffic Management and Parking Ltd;
- Interim Policy and Programme Manager for Parking Service for Hackney Council; and
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members.

3.6 The challenge session resulted in the committee making the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

That the Parking and Mobility Service reviews the parking and permit policies to ensure that:

- (a) It embeds a documented approach such as a Parking Enforcement Plan for policies such as pricing, control parking zones, permit schemes in order to manage the highway and parking demand; and
- (b) It should also detail how these relate to the other council priorities such as climate change, air quality and liveable street and school streets.

Recommendation 2

That the Parking and Mobility Service consider the following options to better utilise available parking space and incorporate health impact assessments alongside equality considerations to understand the impact they will have on:

- (a) Reviewing business permit spaces where feasible and how multi-use bays can be better utilised to support the post pandemic economic recovery;
- (b) Selective use of removal of individual space markings within bays (where there is a high footfall and demand for parking) to support capacity within a limited footprint; and
- (c) Selective application for increasing the use of kerb parking where footways are unusually wide, increasing carriageway width and in some cases allowing the removal of yellow lines (where there is a high footfall and demand for parking) to support capacity within a limited footprint.

Recommendation 3

That the Parking and Mobility Service considers ensuring EV charging points have a maximum stay policy in place to facilitate capacity for others to charge

Recommendation 4

That the Parking and Mobility Service reviews the current Permit Transfer Scheme and should include assessing flexibility for residents who may need a short break from vehicle ownership without it impacting their right of accessing the permit when they choose to purchase the vehicle.

Recommendation 5

That the Parking and Mobility Services uses a targeted approach via CEO monitoring activities to address hotspot areas and co-ordinate with ASB and

Enforcement officers to use sanctions where necessary such as ASB orders and temporary use CCTVs to act as deterrence, meet compliance and incentivise behaviour change.

Recommendation 6

That the Parking and Mobility Services considers the option of setting its emission-based pricing policy over a longer period (for example three years) to help influence buyer behaviour and make the change towards lower emission vehicles.

Recommendation 7

That the Parking and Mobility Service considers expanding the use of car clubs (EV's) as a single borough wide solution for the council, thus reducing further need for costly public service permits and encourage other large employer partners within the borough to sign up with the scheme such as home care providers.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The challenge session examined the impact on the different groups of public space users and occupations. The recommendations arising from the scrutiny challenge aims to improve parking access for a diverse range of residents including ethnic minorities, disabled and elderly residents and those from low-income families.

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 [Report authors should identify any other specific issues relevant to consideration of this report. Including, but not limited to, the issues noted above. This section of the report can also be used to re-emphasise particular issues that Members must have considered before taking the decision (for example issues that may come up if an objection was taken to court). Note – Paragraph 5.1 MUST NOT be deleted.]

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. If any of the recommendations are taken forward and have financial implications, these will need to be costed and reported to a further meeting.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 If the recommendations are approved alterations may be required to road traffic orders etc. Legal Services will be pleased to provide assistance when the full details of the proposals are known'

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Scrutiny Challenge Session Report: The extent to which the council's parking permit policy influences people's behaviour

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:

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