

<b>Cabinet</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
30/11/2022	
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director of Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Reintroduction of four main parent Controlled Parking Zones.</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Michael Darby, Head of Parking, Mobility and Market Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Key
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	(b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	26 October 2022
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Homes for the future</li> <li>2. Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure</li> <li>3. A council that works for you and listens to you</li> </ol>

### **Executive Summary**

Amend the Terms and Conditions for Resident Permits to reintroduce the four Parent Zones and for resident parking permit holders to be able to park all day anywhere in the Parent Zone in which they live.

### **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Amend the Terms and Conditions for Resident Permits so as to reintroduce the four Parent Zones (A,B,C,D) and allow permit holders to be able to park all day within their respective Parent Zone.
2. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment / specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 5.

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

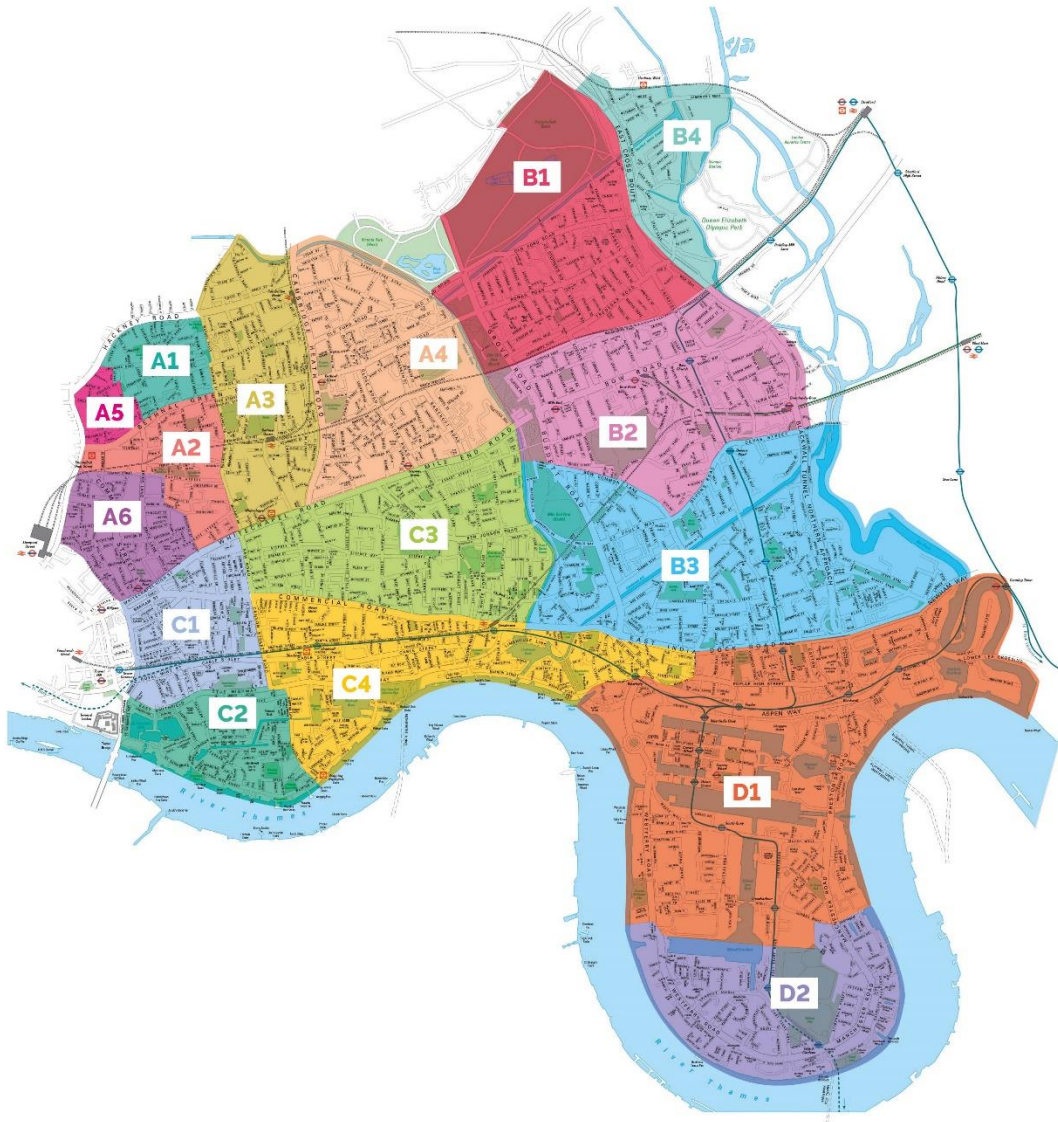
- 1.1 Included as part of the Mayoral Pledges, to restore the right of those who hold one-zone borough parking permits to park all day in the Parent Zone where they live, free of charge.

## 2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Alternative option is not to amend the Terms and Conditions for resident permits and keep them as they currently are.

## 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are 16 Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) across the borough which consist of zones A1 to A6, B1 to B4, C1 to C4 and D1 to D2



- 3.2 Prior to October 2020, there were 4 Parent Zones – A, B, C & D. A permit holder in any of the six A zones could park all day in any of the A zones.

The same applied to the B, C and D zones. On top of this permit holders could also park for up to 3 hours in any other zone.

- 3.3 In October 2020 Council Cabinet considered a report and decided to limit a permit holder to their own zone for all day parking. For example, a B2 permit holder can only park all day in the B2 zone. Same applies to all other permit holders in all the other zones. The concession to be able to park for up to 3 hours in any other zone was not changed.
- 3.4 The October 2020 Cabinet report highlighted that whilst a significant proportion of car journeys are made through the borough by commuter traffic, there are still many short car journeys (less than 2km) made by residents where an alternative mode of transport could be used. These short trips often in local, residential streets were made possible by Resident Permit holders being entitled to park unrestricted in relatively large parent zones, and for up to three hours, in any other parent zone. This had allowed a significant level of unrestricted travel around the borough. The report concluded that as the number of car users had increased over the years, the use of the car for shorter, in-borough travel is contributing to poor air quality and congestion, making the environment less safe and Tower Hamlets a less attractive place. The objective of the change was to assist with relieving traffic congestion and to make roads safer for residents and visitors, in line with the Council's Transport Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan.

#### **4 DETAILS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 To allow permit holders to park all day in parent zones will require a variation to the Council's Terms and Conditions for permit holders.
- 4.2 Following authority to proceed, the necessary changes to the Resident Permit Terms and Conditions will be drafted along with a letter to be sent to all Resident Permit Holders. This will give a minimum of 28 days' notice to all permit holders, it will detail the changes to be made and inform them of the date the changes will take effect and become operational.
- 4.2 Tower Hamlets is a densely populated area with a rapidly increasing population with more cars and ever busier roads. The existing 3 Hour concession, where resident permit holders can park in any other zone, allows residents to attend appointments and to carry out shopping and leisure trips across the borough. Allowing resident permit holders to park all day in their parent zone could lead to more drivers using their cars more to travel within their parent zone. This could lead to more congestion within the borough and make our roads less safe for all road users and pedestrians. As well as this it could contribute to increased air pollution and make finding a parking space close to one's home more difficult for those residents living close to health, shopping, and leisure centres.
- 4.3 Allowing Resident permit holders to park anywhere in their parent zone could also impact residents living close to stations and large employment hubs, as

other residents from their parent zone will be able to drive to the station or their place of work.

- 4.4 The costs of making the necessary changes to resident permit Terms and Conditions are estimated at £30,000 and this can be funded from the Parking account.

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 A full equality analysis, which includes the proposal's likely impact on the nine protected characteristics, has been carried out and is attached as Appendix A.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that this proposal may encourage more residents to use their cars when moving around the borough instead of more sustainable transport modes. This would have a negative impact both on the environment and people's health.
- 5.3 The Council's Transport Strategy outlines that physical activity decreases risks of disease and ill health, including, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, anxiety and depression. Promoting car driving may contribute to drivers' and passengers physical inactivity including children's obesity too. Research from 2019 estimates the mean fraction of mortality attributable to air pollution was higher in Tower Hamlets, than the London average, and was the 6th highest in London. As well as heart disease and cancer poor air quality is also linked to: Asthma, Dementia, Allergies and reduced life expectancy.
- 5.4 The evidence pack, of the Council's Transport Strategy states:
- Traffic flows are a significant determinant of air pollution in the borough
  - In the borough, a disproportionately higher rate of South Asian population who are over 70 years old have been diagnosed with asthma.
- 5.5 Key groups vulnerable to poor air quality include:
- Infants and young children,
  - Pregnant women,
  - People over 65,
  - People with existing cardiovascular disease or respiratory disease,
  - Low income communities (research has found that communities in London that have higher levels of deprivation, or a higher proportion of people from a non-white ethnic background are more likely to be exposed to higher levels of air pollution than communities in areas of lower deprivation).
- 5.6 In some areas residents already find it difficult to park near their homes and it could become more difficult due to other residents from their parent zone being able to park all day and thereby making it even more difficult to find available parking.
- 5.7 Existing concessions to support disabled people will remain unchanged. These include free Visitor Vouchers for Carers and Resident Permits for

Disabled Badge holders. Disabled Badge holders also have the right to park for three hours on a single or double yellow line and all day in a Pay by Phone bays. People who have carers are entitled to an additional free 480 visitor parking vouchers. This is an addition to 240 residents parking vouchers which are free to those over 60 years old.

## **6 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Being able to park all day in the parent zone may attract drivers to use their cars to get to a station or workplace as they are able to park for the whole of the working day. All these additional short journeys may have a negative impact on Air Quality across the borough.
- 6.2 The contractual terms and conditions that govern resident parking permits clearly specify that the Council retains the right to amend them upon the provision of 28 days' notice. These terms and conditions are issued with each permit and published on the Council website. If the changes to the terms and conditions are approved, Officers will inform all resident permit holders of a new implementation date which gives 28 days' notice. A consultation on the changes is not a requirement.

## **7 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications emanating from this report which seeks approval to amend the Terms and Conditions for Resident Permits to allow all permit holders in a zone to be able to park all day with their permit.
- 7.2 Any costs associated with amending the Terms and Conditions and writing to permit holders to inform them of these amendments will be contained within the Parking account

## **8 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

The Recommendation of the report seeks approval for the reintroduction of the four main parent parking zones.

- 8.1 The proposal is to be implemented by way of a change to the terms & conditions of the residential parking permits. This would serve to change the ability of residents to park, without charge or restriction, from just the parking zone in which they reside to the whole of the parent zone in which they reside.
- 8.2 Paragraph 6.3 of the report advises that changes to the terms and conditions of resident permits can be made following the grant of 28 days' notice. In the event the changes are approved a period of 28 days' notice will be provided to all resident permit holders.
- 8.3 The proposal does not attract any statutory consultation process. This is because changes to the terms and conditions of the parking permit in this instance are solely a contractual matter. They do not involve the creation of an Order in accordance with

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and associated regulations. Therefore, there is no requirement for consultation to be undertaken in respect of the proposed amendments to traffic/parking arrangements as governed under the respective regulations.

- 8.4 Furthermore, it is not considered that a legitimate expectation of consultation, albeit, non-statutory arises. The Council has not made any equivocal statements regarding the way in which it undertakes public consultation on this particular type of change to parking permits and there is not any established custom and practice of undertaking consultation for changes to parking permit terms and conditions.
- 8.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken (and updated) in respect of the proposed changes. This is addressed in paragraph 5 of the report. Members must consider the EQIA when reaching a decision.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- Equalities Impact Assessment

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- Changes to Resident Permit Terms and Conditions (item 6.1 Cabinet 28/10/2020).

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

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