

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 22 APRIL 2013
REPORT ON: WEST END RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME - CONSULTATION
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 202-2013

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Committee on the outcome of the consultation exercise associated with the Proposed West End Residents' Parking Scheme undertaken between October 2012 and December 2012 and to seek Committee approval for the recommendations made within the report.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a note the results of the consultation exercise; and
 - b approve that a Residents Permit Scheme is not implemented in the West End area of the city due to the lack of public support through the detailed consultation exercise. The consultation exercise also indicated that the scale of the parking problems were insufficient to warrant the implementation of a Residents Parking Scheme.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In January 2010 the City Development Committee approved Report 22-2010 detailing the outcome from a Residents' Parking Scheme consultation process. The committee approved 4 zones that were to be taken forward into the detailed design stage. The 4 areas that were identified from the initial consultation were West End, Dudhope, Hilltown and Princes Street. These zones form a "ring" around the city centre which is the main attraction for commuters/visitors and these can cause additional parking pressures in adjacent areas to the detriment of local residents.
- 4.2 One of the areas concerned was the West End as the residents through the initial consultation responses indicated that the residents were in favour of progressing with a residents parking scheme.
- 4.3 Report 22-2010 informed Committee that for the residents permit scheme to be financially viable a residents permit would cost in the region of £77. It was proposed to operate the scheme with a permit price of £80 as this would allow the scheme to operate on a cost neutral basis. This meant the scheme would not require additional funding from existing Council revenues.
- 4.4 Following on from this report Officers prepared detailed plans indicating a residents parking scheme that could be implemented within the West End area. These plans illustrated the signing and lining requirements for all streets in the proposed zone and this would give local residents an understanding of how a Residents Parking Scheme would impact them.
- 4.5 In October 2012 the details were posted to residents within the proposed zone and all residents within 200 metres of the boundary of the proposed West End zone. It was important that residential properties outwith the zone were also consulted as any future

Residents Parking Scheme would also affect them as vehicles could easily be displaced onto neighbouring streets. The closing date for the consultation exercise was 21 December 2012.

- 4.6 The consultation provided residents with a detailed plan and operational details to give them enough information to evaluate the impact of a Residents' Parking Scheme. Alongside this information the residents were asked to fill in a questionnaire and submit it back to the council. The consultation was also published on-line and allowed residents to fill in an electronic version of the questionnaire. In total 3,700 letters were posted to residents inside the zone and 3,046 letters posted to residents adjacent to the zone. A total of 634 responses to the consultation exercise were received with 431 of the responses from inside the zone and 203 from outside the zone. This gives a suitable sample size to allow a conclusion to be reached on the consultation exercise.
- 4.7 From the results it can easily be determined that 72% of the residents within the zone rejected the implementation of a Residents Permit Scheme in the West End. Of the businesses within the zone who responded, 62% of them also rejected the proposals.
- 4.8 When considering the residents who live outwith the zone, the survey results indicated that 80% of them were against the proposals.
- 4.9 It is also important to note that only 39% of the residents within the zone considered that they had a parking problem and this indicates that the majority of residents do not have significant enough parking problems to justify the implementation of a Residents Permits Scheme. This suggests that parking problems are not widespread within the area, although it is acknowledged that in some streets there are issues relating to parking.
- 4.10 A public exhibition of the proposal plans was held on the 19 November 2012 in Blackness Library and this allowed local residents to view the proposals and ask Officers any questions that they had. This exhibition was very well attended and officer opinion was that the majority of residents were against the implementation of the scheme. The questionnaires submitted at the exhibition indicated that 86% were against a Residents Parking Scheme.
- 4.11 The Head of Transportation also attended a West End Community Council (WECC) meeting to discuss the proposals and after this discussion the WECC unanimously rejected the introduction of the West End Residents Permit scheme.

5 COMMENTS FROM THE CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As part of the consultation exercise residents were allowed to make comments about the proposals and the main points that were raised were that the scheme was too expensive at £80.
- 5.2 They also highlighted the fact that the visitor permits were costly and would detrimentally impact on them. Comments from the Businesses on the Perth Road/Blackness Road areas suggested that the parking permits scheme would have a negative impact on their operations and would cause their businesses to suffer.
- 5.3 Other comments from residents indicated that the parking problem was not during the day but at night and the proposed scheme would do nothing to ease it. A full breakdown of comments has been sent to Group Leaders, Bailies Scott, Borthwick and Councillor Macpherson. However, it should be noted that by far the majority of comments were against the proposed scheme. The comments in general suggest that a Residents Parking Scheme would not be supported by the residents or businesses.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The consultation exercise indicated that for the majority of the residents there was not a significantly severe parking problem to warrant the introduction of a residents' permit scheme as most residents considered that they did not have a parking problem when the scheme would be operational. The consultation exercise has clearly demonstrated that a Residents Parking Scheme with a cost neutral charge (£80) is not acceptable to the local residents and businesses within the area. Given the level of public opposition to the scheme it is proposed that a Residents' Permit Scheme is not progressed as the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) required to implement the Scheme would generate widespread objections from residents in the area. This would result in the Council being unable to implement the Residents' Parking Scheme.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 7.2 There are issues relating to poverty as an £80 Permit price would disproportionately disadvantage residents who have lower incomes and would place an additional financial burden on them. A Residents Permit Scheme would have a negative impact on these residents. A Residents Parking Scheme can also assist sustainability by encouraging other modes of transport away from the private car by reducing parking demand. There are no major issues relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Impacts and Risk Management.

8 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Report 22-2010 to the City Development Committee – 11 January 2010 - Residents Parking Scheme Consultation.

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NHG/MG/KM

14 March 2013

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