

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Work Committee - 19 December 2005
Planning and Transportation Committee - 9 January 2006

REPORT ON: Assistance With Parking - Disabled Persons

REPORT BY: Director Of Social Work And Director Of Planning And Transportation

REPORT NO: 721-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To establish a Council position regarding the provision of parking facilities for disabled persons. This assistance has generally taken the form of parking signs and parking boxes and run-ins. To alter the arrangements for the delivery of this service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committees agree:-

2.1 to transfer the responsibility for implementation of parking facilities from the Social Work Department to the Planning and Transportation Department.

2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work, Director of Planning and Transportation and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) to put in place arrangements for public access through the central Corporate Customer Services Team.

2.3 the revised criteria for individuals outlined below.

2.4 the limits on provision in areas of high demand outlined by the Director of Planning and Transportation

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The recommendations contained within this report can be funded within existing budgets.

The transfer of responsibility for the provision of this service will require the current revenue budget of £8,000 to be transferred from the Social Work Department to the Planning and Transportation Department.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This supports individual access and social inclusion.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report promotes equality of opportunity for disabled people.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Assistance with parking for disabled people was last reviewed in 1997 (Report No 893/97).

The criteria at that time were established as:

Parking and Hard Standing

If a driver is disabled (defined as being a holder of a Blue Badge) and is unable to walk from the house to the nearest parking place, consideration will be given to the provision of a parking box outside the driver's home.

If a driver is a wheelchair user and is at risk from passing traffic when transferring from wheelchair to car, Social Work Department will consider providing a run-in.

Learner drivers will not be considered.

Where disabled passengers are regular car users and require help to walk to the nearest parking area and would be at risk if left unattended, consideration will be given to the provision of a parking sign.

In all cases:-

a) *the provision of a run-in, parking box or parking sign is subject to approval by the Planning and Transportation Department.*

and

b) *the car must be required for regular use*

and

c) *there must be a proven and daily difficulty with on street parking.*

6.2 The operation of this policy has been increasingly difficult for a variety of reasons:-

- there has been a steady increase in car ownership which has created pressure on parking spaces.
- The unco-ordinated creation of run-ins/driveways by tenants and owner occupiers has reduced the amount of available parking space.
- the creation of traffic calming measures has reduced the amount of available parking space.

6.3 Requests are regularly received to provide boxes as a means of resolving neighbour disputes. There are also high numbers of requests in the areas around the football grounds and the periphery of controlled parking zones.

6.4 There are subsequent complaints when people use parking boxes, often in the absence of other available spaces. There is little understanding that the boxes and signs are advisory and therefore cannot be legally enforced.

6.5 There is currently no policy to manage the overall impact of the ongoing provision of parking boxes. Each request is assessed on its merits by the Social Work Department, and the Planning and Transportation Department consider the individual's application on the basis of

the road safety implications. No reference is made to the overall level of commitment already made.

- 6.6 Revision in policy needs to balance the needs of the individual disabled person against those of the wider community.
- 6.7 Decisions as to whether or not to provide assistance must rest on an assessment of the individual's eligibility and the overall management of the roads with regards to safety and neighbourhood parking patterns.
- 6.8 Dundee City Council has a policy, which is generous in its provision relative to other local authorities. We wish to maintain a position which is supportive to disabled people.
- 6.9 Currently, assistance with parking is given low priority with the Social Work Department's Occupational Therapy Service. Channelling applications through the Customer Services Team will provide a more prompt and effective service to the public. It will allow applications to be followed up directly by the Planning and Transportation Department.
- 6.10 Under the new arrangements applications will be received through the Customer Service Team at Tayside House on behalf of the Planning and Transportation Department. They will deal with the initial application and decision regarding an applicant's eligibility. The Planning and Transportation Department will then make a decision regarding provision based on road safety, kerbside availability and traffic management considerations. The Social Work Department will assist the Corporate Customer Service Team in the process mapping and development of operational procedures prior to the transfer of responsibility.
- 6.11 The revisions therefore aim to ensure that our resources are targeted to those with greatest need and that we balance our response to take account of other road users. In addition, the changes will improve the quality of customer service.
- 6.12 Applications will therefore be subject to two considerations.
- 1 An assessment of individual eligibility
 - 2 A decision by the Planning and Transportation Department based on road safety and traffic management criteria
- 6.13 The criteria which will apply to the approval of the request for a parking facility for disabled persons will be:-
- a Either (1) the person with a disability is the driver of the vehicle.
Or (2) the person with a disability, if not the driver, is a full-time wheelchair user.
and
 - b Either (1) the person with a disability receives the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance.
Or (2) the person with a disability, if over 65 years of age, has been awarded a blue badge.
 - c There is no suitable off-street parking facility available near the disabled person's home.
 - d The vehicle is normally kept at the home address of the applicant.
 - e It is recommended that a provisional maximum figure of 30% of the available kerbside space be allocated for either disabled parking spaces or driveways

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 21 November 2005

Mike Galloway
Director of Planning and Transportation

Date: 21 November 2005