

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **31 October 2019**

Title: **Car Parking permits**

Portfolio Area: **Environment Services (Cllr Keith Baldry)**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Following Call In Monday 11 November 2019**

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**Recommendation:** That the Executive resolves to cease the sale of all new parking permits with immediate effect, pending a complete review of permits across the District.

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The report recommends that current parking permits are the subject of an in-depth and comprehensive review, with resulting recommendations being made to the Executive in February 2020.
- 1.2 It is further recommended that, in the meantime, sale of new permits be ceased for a temporary period from 31 October 2019, pending the review of permits across the District.
- 1.3 Following the previous review of permits (resolved by Executive Members on 20 April 2017) sales have increased and, should this trend continue, will have an adverse effect on the turnover of parking bays in towns and villages, in addition to having a negative effect on the Council's Pay & Display income.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Following a previous review of permits, changes were made to permits to make them more manageable. In place of permits which were valid in all long-stay car parks, permits became town or village-specific.

This enables the Council to establish where permits are used and, if necessary, will enable a limit to be placed on the number of permits sold for each area, in accordance with the needs of each community.

- 2.2 Despite the town/ village limit being placed on permits, they continue to represent excellent value for money for customers, giving a substantial saving on the cost of parking.
- 2.3 However, it is recognised that, in some instances, the popularity of permits has hampered the turnover of motorists who choose to pay a daily parking fee, and restricted the number of parking bays available for such motorists.
- 2.4 This, in the long-term, could affect developments in towns, for example the potential provision of a supermarket in Ivybridge, where permit parking is particularly high.
- 2.5 Officers agree that an indepth review of permits is required, including the types of permits available, numbers available and cost.
- 2.6 However, as there will be a need to consult with communities in respect of such a review, there is concern that permit sales may increase so that customers are in possession of them ahead of any changes.

### **3. Outcomes/outputs**

- 3.1 As a result of the concern of increased sales, and in the interests of fairness, it is proposed that, although current permits may be renewed, the sale of new permits should be suspended, with immediate effect, pending the in-depth review and subsequent recommendations.

### **4. Options available and consideration of risk**

- 4.1 The proposal is to suspend the sale of new permits whilst a review and consultation is carried out in order to protect the Council's ability to manage car parking effectively. This should reduce the risk of having to manage a higher number of permits already in place when recommendations in respect of the revised permit scheme are made to Members. Existing permit holders will still be able to renew current permits during the suspension period.
- 4.2 Members of the public wishing to purchase a new permits may lobby the Council about this. However, officers will ensure that the reasons for implementing such a step, are communicated effectively to residents, and give reassurance to communiities that they will be consulted with on the way forward.

- 4.3 Alternatively, the Council could continue to issue new permits whilst the review is carried out. However the risk is that this could lead to a sharp increase in permits purchased, which would exacerbate the problem (set out in paragraph 2.3) that the Council is trying to address.

## 5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The proposed way forward is to suspend the issuing of new permits, as set out in paragraph 4.1. This step will ensure that the Council is able to continue to manage parking effectively.

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).</p> <p>The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.</p> <p>The Council has the powers to provide this service under the General Powers of Competence in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	None at this stage.
Risk	Y	<p>The proposal to suspend the sale of new permits is being made in order to protect the Council's ability to manage car parking effectively, and should reduce the risk of having to manage a higher number of permits already in place when recommendations in respect of the revised permit scheme are made to Members.</p> <p>Members of the public wishing to purchase a new permit may make a complaint to the Council.</p> <p>Officers will ensure that communication is effective, including social media, press releases and responding to individual enquiries.</p>

Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council – delivering efficient and effective services.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		No implications at this stage.
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
Equality and Diversity		No implications.
Safeguarding		No implications.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No potential positive or negative impact on crime and disorder reduction.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No implications.
Other implications		None at this stage.

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

None.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Approval and clearance of report**

<b>Process checklist</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Portfolio Holder briefed/sign off	<b>Yes/No</b>
SLT Rep briefed/sign off	<b>Yes/No</b>
Relevant Heads of Practice sign off (draft)	<b>Yes/No</b>
Data protection issues considered	<b>Yes/No</b>
Accessibility checked	<b>Yes/No</b>