



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2010 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Grant – Chair
Councillor Bhavsar – Vice-Chair

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Suleman

Councillor Joshi
Councillor Scuplak

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

24. AMENDMENTS TO RESIDENTS PARKING PERMIT RULES

The Director, Regeneration, Highways and Transportation submitted a report that made the Board aware of the proposals to introduce a variation permitted within the Leicester (Consolidated) Traffic Regulation Order 2006 as Amended (the TRO) as stipulated in Appendix 1, “Rules relating to the issue of Parking Permits within Leicester City”.

An officer from Traffic Management was in attendance and introduced the report. She stated that the amendments to the residents parking rules were in part an attempt to reduce some of the bureaucracies of the scheme. It was also pointed out that the revised scheme allowed people over 60 to obtain a free parking permit.

In response to a query, it was confirmed to the Board that the revised scheme would lead to no increase in the cost of residents obtaining permits.

Concern was expressed around businesses such as restaurants, immediately affected by resident parking schemes. It was confirmed that additional permits were available for businesses such as garages etc, but the officer from Traffic Management agreed to look further into issues around businesses within such schemes.

A number of points were raised around the provision of free parking permits for those people over the age of 60. In particular, concerns were expressed around whether the Council could be legally challenged on the grounds of age discrimination. Members felt that it would be more logical for elderly retired people to be entitled to a free permit, but did not agree that all people over 60 should be entitled to free permits as many of these people remained in full-time employment. The officer from Traffic Management could not confirm how many free permits would be provided to those over 60 or the costs of doing so. Members felt that there were a significant number of people over 60 who would be entitled to a free pass, and were concerned that the potential loss of revenue to the City Council could lead to an increase in the price of parking permits in the future.

The Legal Officer present advised that no justification could be seen for allowing all people over 60 to be entitled to obtain a free parking permit. She advised that an equality impact assessment be carried out which assessed whether the scheme had a disproportionate effect on the elderly and infirm members of society.

A Member of the Young People's Council was invited to speak. He was of the view that the provision of free parking permits to all people over 60 was particularly unfair for younger people. He stated that people aged between 16 and 25 was the most highly populated age category of people living within Leicester, and that the majority of these people were either students, not in employment, or on a low income.

The Board agreed that a revised version of the report be brought to the Board that included statistics on the number of people over 60 who would potentially be entitled to a free pass and the related costs that would be incurred by the City Council. An equality impact assessment was also requested to be carried out. In light of the legal advice provided, the Board asked that officers and the Cabinet Lead Member reconsider whether free parking permits should be provided to all people over 60. The Board also requested that the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Transport be invited to the meeting that considers the revised report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a revised version of the report be requested to be brought to the Board that included statistics on the number of people over 60 who would potentially be entitled to a free pass and the related costs that would be incurred by the City Council.
- (2) That the revised version of the report includes an equality impact assessment which assesses

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whether the scheme had a disproportionate effect on the elderly and infirm members of society.

- (3) That in light of the legal advice provided, the Board requests that officers and the Cabinet Lead Member reconsider whether free parking permits should be provided to all people over 60, and;
- (4) That the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Transport be invited to the meeting that considers the revised report.