

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL**

**7 MARCH 2011**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SILVERBURN AVENUE, MORETON RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>LEASOWE &amp; MORETON EAST</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR LESLEY RENNIE</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report advises Panel of the outcome of a recent consultation exercise carried out with residents of Silverburn Avenue, Moreton to ascertain the level of support for restricting the number of resident parking permits that may be issued to addresses within the street.
- 1.2 The report seeks Panels' instruction as to how to proceed with the matter in the light of the consultation and other considerations mentioned below.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 2.1 That Panel note the content of the report and come to a view on the following options (a) or (b):

Panel notes the result of the recent consultation with residents of Silverburn Avenue, Moreton on a proposal to limit the number of permits issued to each address within the scheme to one resident and one visitor permit only and;

- a) Instructs officers to take no further action in regards to this proposal, or
- b) In the light of the particular circumstances, recommends to Cabinet a variance in established policy, such that an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order is advertised to limit the number of permits as noted and subject to no objections being received that the order is made as advertised.

#### **3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 3.1 The recommendation allows members to consider the outcome of consultations with residents in addition to officer's comments on the matter and to come to a conclusion on the most appropriate course of action.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 At a meeting of your Panel on 17 September 2009 I reported on a petition objecting to a proposal to allow visitor permits to be issued to residential properties within Silverburn Avenue, Moreton.
- 4.2 At that meeting it was resolved that “Panel note the objectors’ concerns and recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the traffic regulation order for the introduction of Residents’ Parking Scheme Visitor Permits at Silverburn Avenue, Moreton, be made as advertised, subject to the issue of permits being restricted to one household and one visitor”.
- 4.3 This resolution was subsequently agreed at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 September 2009.
- 4.4 In accordance with the resolution, visitor permits were introduced into the scheme in October 2009.
- 4.5 The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) governing this scheme allows for multiple resident permits to be issued to each address within the scheme, subject to meeting relevant criteria. Panels’ decision to restrict resident permits to one per property (in addition to the single visitor permit) would require an amendment to that TRO and members will be aware that there is a consultation and legal process to go through in order to facilitate this.
- 4.6 Officers monitored the impact that the introduction of visitor permits had on the street and were in a position to consult with residents on the other aspect of the Panel resolution, namely that permits should be restricted to one resident and one visitor permit per property.
- 4.7 The consultation consisted of a letter-drop to each property within the scheme advising of the Panel’s decision, outlining the existing scheme and how the matter would be taken forward. A simple “tick-box” form was included for response, which included a section for residents to make additional comments. A pre-paid return envelope was also included.
- 4.8 23 forms were hand delivered and 14 were completed and returned, which represents almost 61%. All but two of the returns are in favour of the proposal to restrict the numbers of resident and visitor permits to one of each per property.
- 4.9 When proposing significant changes to resident parking schemes, officers generally take a view that at least 80% of residential properties within the scheme should be in favour of the change. This view is taken in order to minimise the potential number of objections from residents themselves to any subsequent formal advertisement of proposals.
- 4.10 In the case of this consultation, of the 23 forms that were delivered, 12 were returned in favour of the proposal, which represents 52% of the total consulted and falls significantly short of the 80% mentioned above.

- 4.11 Given that there does not appear to be overwhelming support for this proposal, officers consider that it would be appropriate for Panel to consider this matter further and instruct how they wish officer to proceed, particularly in the light of the risks mentioned in section 5 below.
- 4.12 Therefore Panel is requested to consider the two optional recommendations in Section 2.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 5.1 The Silverburn Avenue scheme was introduced in 1984 and the subsequent schemes that have been introduced throughout the Borough have followed the same format in that multiple resident permits can be issued to addresses within the scheme, subject to meeting relevant criteria. It appears that only one or two properties within Silverburn Avenue are likely to be affected by this proposal, which may result in an accusation of unfair discrimination from this small number of residents if it were to go ahead.
- 5.2 Although there is no formal written Council Policy on the number of resident permits that are allowed at each address, existing schemes are geared to allow multiple permit issue and the associated forms and criteria for the issuing of resident permits in those schemes support this. Legal officers' advice is that this suggests there is an established Policy, which would therefore require Cabinet approval for a variation, hence the wording of recommendation option (b) in Section 2.

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 The options for Panel consideration are identified in the report and recommendation.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation has been carried out with residents of Silverburn Avenue as identified in the report.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 There are no implications under this heading.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1 There are no implications under this heading for option (a). The processing of a Traffic Regulation Order as identified under option (b) would cost approximately £1500, which could be met from within existing revenue budgets and staffing resources.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no implications under this heading for option (a). The legal implications for option (b) are identified in the report and include Cabinet approval for a variation from established policy in addition to the processing of a TRO.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no implications under this heading. Blue (Disabled) Badge Holders (whether or not they are resident within the scheme) are exempted from the requirement to display a parking permit within the schemes and are not subject to a time limit on waiting within a bay as long as they correctly display a valid Blue Badge.

11.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required in respect of this report.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The issue of on-street parking and its possible control is part of a wider strategy to reduce reliance on the use of the motorcar.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no implications under this heading.

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## **APPENDICES**

Drawing reference B.ENG/2/11

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

A Highways and Traffic Representation Panel meeting resolution dated 17 September 2009.

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Highways and Traffic Representation Panel</b>	<b>17 September 2009</b>