

Subject:	Brighton Sea Cadets – voluntary permits		
Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015		
Report of:	Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee requested at its meeting on 20 January that a report be brought to the next Committee meeting. The report is to investigate the specific parking problems being experienced by volunteers working for the Brighton Sea Cadets since the introduction of parking restrictions as part of the Lewes Road Parking scheme.
- 1.2 A full review of all parking permit policies is beginning soon with a full report scheduled to be presented to Committee in October 2015

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee defers any decision to provide voluntary parking permits for Brighton Sea Cadet volunteers and awaits the full parking permit policy review to be presented to Committee in October 2015

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 There are about 2,300 community groups and voluntary organisations in Brighton and Hove. Most community groups and voluntary organisations' main activities are to empower people to improve the quality of their life. The median numbers of users per community group or voluntary organisation is 300 and the local community and voluntary sector employs 6,900 people.
- 3.2 The number of volunteer hours worked in the city is estimated to have almost tripled over the past decade to 5.8m in 2013 with 27,000 people working in the voluntary sector. Controlled on-street spaces in the city are limited to 29,143 providing access for residents, visitors and businesses
- 3.3 The estimated income of the third sector in Brighton and Hove is approximately £73 million per year. Much of this is spent in Brighton and Hove on local projects, which creates further economic benefits so that the third sector contributes approximately £127 million to the Brighton and Hove economy each year. This equates to 2.2% of the total economy.

- 3.4 One of the recommendations of 'Taking Account 3,' the 3rd sector audit report, is to develop a joined up public sector approach to the development and sustainability of the third sector.
- 3.5 Each charitable organisation does however have its own unique parking needs. This differs from other current permit types where the group all have similar parking requirements, such as school, trader or hotel guest permit holders. Registered charities providing services in the city include South East Dance, the RNLI, Age Concern. Each organisation has very different parking needs based on what they actually do and where they are located
- 3.6 The city currently issues over fifteen different types of permits to a wide range of groups to cater for their particular parking needs. There are significant pressures on permit parking spaces in parts of the city, with waiting lists for permits.
- 3.7 There are also known localised hotspots within zones where demand for parking exceeds the supply of spaces available. It is important that any changes to permit policy take into account local parking capacity to minimise the negative impact on other local permit holders. For example a high demand time within parking schemes is 6pm-8pm when residents are returning home from work.
- 3.8 Two further requests for permits have been received from other charitable organisations requesting parking concessions since the request received from the sea cadets. It is proposed that these and any subsequent requests received are put on hold pending the review.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The option of issuing temporary permits to the Sea Cadets was considered. This was not supported because of the need for fairness and consistency across all voluntary groups and the complexity of the issues, as highlighted in this report. Carrying out the review first will allow for consultation with the Sea Cadets and other organisations that have subsequently made requests, with the aim of agreeing a permit system that is fair, taking into account local capacity.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Brighton Sea Cadets have been consulted in the preparation of this report. They would like free area J parking permits for their volunteers. Correspondence has been received from two other voluntary groups requesting similar concessions.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 There are a broad range of organisations working for the voluntary sector with different parking needs operating in different areas of the city with different levels of parking capacity. Additional requests for similar concessions by other organisations have been received. Rather than a reactive response to the request for parking concessions from one organisation, a full review of the sector reporting back to Committee in October would allow for the scope and impact of

changes to parking policy to be fully evaluated. It would also be fairer for the other organisations presenting similar requests

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The financial implications of the review of parking permit policies will be reported to Committee at a later date.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 10/02/15

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications in this report but the full report in October 2015 would include a detailed section on all legal implications identified.

Lawyer Consulted: Katie Matthews

Date: 09/02/2015

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 Transport policies aim to encourage sustainable transport choice. While some volunteers need their vehicles to carry out their functions for others the vehicle may be used to commute to and from the organisation

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. Taking Account 3 the third sector audit report

