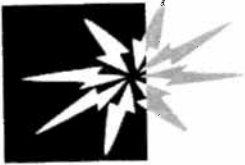




Report for:	Cabinet	Item number	
Title:	Essential Service Permits		
Report authorised by :	Lyn Garner, Director of Places and Sustainability		
Lead Officer:	Ann Cunningham , Head of Traffic Management		
Ward(s) affected: Specify ward(s) All	Report for Non Key Decision:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 In June 2008, following representations the Cabinet Advisory Board reviewed the Essential Service Permit Scheme (ESP) and agreed that Schools and Ministers of Religion should benefit from a reduction in normal ESP charges and pay an amount equivalent to a residential permit charge at that time.
- 1.2 Apart from the inflationary 3% increase applied to all parking permit charges in April 2012, charges for ESP for schools and minister of religion have not changed since 2008, despite residential permit charges having increased over the same period. This disparity and the general case for continuing with the reduced charge ESP scheme needed to be reviewed.
- 1.3 The report also considers the case for Midwives (from the Whittington Hospital) who lobbied to be part of the reduced ESP scheme.
- 1.4 A further report will be presented to Cabinet later this year following a wider review of the ESP and Business Permit scheme. This will address the current overlap between those schemes and will also align them both with our current transport policies.



2.0 Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 In 2008 we acknowledged that schools and ministers of religion would benefit from compatible charges with resident permit users. The recommendations in this report are in line with that decision and aims to align charges for schools and ministers of religion with those that apply to residents.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Members agree that in line with existing policy, ESP charges for Schools and Ministers of Religion are increased to current residential parking permits levels as set out in appendix A.

3.2 That Members agree that Midwives should continue to be charged at the same level as all other Health and Social Care providers and should not be included in the reduced ESP scheme.

3.3 That Members agree in principle to the wider review of the ESP and Business permit schemes.

4. Other options considered

4.1 A number of other options and the policy implications were also considered and they are detailed below:

4.2 Consideration was given to continuing to charge Schools and Ministers of Religion at the existing reduced rate. It was felt that this approach would conflict with the Council's overall policy objective of charges adequately reflecting the environmental impact of vehicles. The charging mechanism is designed to promote behavioural change and encourage the use of vehicles with lower carbon emissions. Permit charges were increased for residents in 2011, who use the same Controlled Parking Zones, and to justify continuing with this disparity will be difficult to defend. As part of the Council Staff Travel Plan, the Council also charges its own office based staff £300 per annum to park in Council owned car parks.

4.3 Consideration was given to increasing the charge for Schools and Ministers of Religion to the same rate charged to 'Other' ESP users. While this option would result in uniformity with all ESPs being charged on one single basis with no concessions, it would increase the charge for Schools and Ministers of Religion by up to 900%.

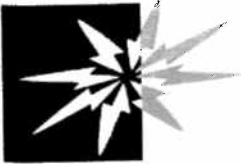


Haringey Council

- 4.4 Consideration was given to reducing the charge to Midwives to residential permit levels. However it was felt that this change would be against the policy position of encouraging transport channel shift to more sustainable forms. In addition the NHS purchases ESPs to the value of £65K annually for their Health Care professionals. If they do not purchase them for midwives it is because they believe that midwives do not need them.
- 4.5 Midwives like all medical professionals may apply for the Health Emergency Badge (HEB) issued by the London Councils. This badge costs £27 and provides exemptions from the parking regulations to primary healthcare providers when attending genuine medical emergency situations in patients' own home.
- 4.6 Planned (non emergency) visits can be supported by the low cost visitors' permits that are currently offered to residents.
- 4.7 Neighbouring boroughs for example, Hackney, Islington, Camden and Waltham Forest do not make special provision for Midwives. These boroughs were looked at as they have similar parking and traffic management issues to Haringey. This research indicates that Hackney offers a Health and Social care permit at a cost that ranges from £120 to £520 per annum. Islington makes provision for new parents (which would cover midwives visits) of 40 free visitor permits for a period of 3 months, made up of either ½ or 3 hourly vouchers, normally charged at either 43p or £2.30. They make no provision over and above that for Midwives. Waltham Forest offers an essential user permit that Health Care providers may purchase at an average charge of £240 per year. Camden allow no concessions (appendix B sets out details)

5. Background information

- 5.1 The Greenest Borough Strategy included the development of a Council staff travel plan. This included a review of the Essential Service Permit scheme as agreed by CAB on 6 September 2007 and an implementation plan agreed by CAB on 22 November 2007.
- 5.2 The review of the ESP scheme resulted in changes to charges and qualifying criteria. Charges were intended to reflect the actual value of the permit and were banded by CO2 emissions.
- 5.3 The qualifying criteria are now based on exceptional operational need and applicants need to demonstrate as part of their application how they meet the qualifying criteria. Current charges and the qualifying criteria are set out in Appendix C.



5.6 Midwives are currently charged under the 'Other' category of ESP. Since the review in 2007 and subsequent charge increase, midwives from the Whittington Hospital lobbied through Elected Representatives for cheaper permits as their employers have refused to purchase ESPs at the increased charge.

5.7 The review in 2007 involved extensive consultation with the NHS / PCT who were allowed a considerable lead in time to deal with the budget implications arising from this review and to plan deployment in face of the increased cost of permits. While there was considerable discussion about the overall impact of the new charges, with specific equalities issues being raised about particular groups of Health Care providers, midwives were not highlighted as a group that required special provision.

6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer and Financial Implications

6.1 ESP charges for schools and ministers of religion are increased to current residential permit charges, an additional £8k would be generated annually. If charges are increased to the full ESP charge, an additional £70k would be generated annually.

6.2 Due to lower take up of ESPs, income has reduced in both 2010/11 and 2011/12. Any additional income from an increase in charges would help address this shortfall.

7. Head of Legal Services and Legal Implications

7.1 The proposals set out in the report have been screened for their possible implications under the Equality Act. The screening found there to be no adverse impact on any of the service providers identified. The screening also confirmed that the proposals carry no apparent implications for good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

8.1 The Council has a general equality duty under Section 4 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires that in all its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who those characteristics and people who do not.



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Protected characteristics include Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex (formerly gender) and Sexual Orientation.

Policy and Equality Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and they comment that the proposals set out in the report have been screened for their possible implications for this duty and have been found to carry no adverse impact on any of the service providers identified in the report, in terms of the protected characteristics which they may share, and within the meaning of discrimination, victimisation and other prohibited conducts defined by the Act. They also carry no apparent implications for good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

9. Policy Implications

9.1 Recommendations in this report are in line with existing policy.

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix A - The increase from current charges for schools and ministers of religion to current residential permit charges

Appendix B - Comparative data – arrangements for those particular groups in neighbouring boroughs

Appendix C - All ESP charges and qualifying criteria

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Greenest Borough Strategy
- Report to Cabinet Advisory Board 18 June 2008



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Appendix A: - the increase from current charges for schools and ministers of religion to current residential permit charges

Banding	Current charges (schools and ministers of religion)	Increase to current residential charges
A (up to 100 CO ₂ g/km)	£15.50	£20.60
B (101- 150 CO ₂ g/km)	£30.90	£51.50
C (151- 185 CO ₂ g/km)	£61.80	£103
D (186 CO ₂ g/km and over)	£92.70	£154.50

Vehicles registered before 23 March 2001, where CO2 emissions are not documented.

Banding	Current charges (schools and ministers of religion)	Increase to current residential charges
1549cc or less	£30.90	£51.50
1550cc to 3000cc	£61.80	£103
3001 and above	£92.70	£154.5

Appendix B – Comparative data – arrangements in other boroughs

Borough	Schools	Ministers of religion	Midwives	Other
Camden	No concessions	No Concessions	No Concessions	Apart from residential (and visitor) permits, they only offer business or trade permits. Business permits costs £290 annually and allow holders to park only in business bays with some concessions made north of Euston Rd where some additional shared use bays are installed. Trade 'permissions to park' are available at £30 a day.
Hackney	No Concessions	No Concessions	Health and social care permits available – emissions based price ranging from £120 to £520 per annum	The only other concession apart from residential permits is the Business permit scheme which ranges in price from £520 to £1520
Islington	A schools permit is available at £315 annually. The vehicle must be used for school business and can not be used for all day commuter parking.	No concessions	No concessions. New parents are offered 40 free visitor permits for a period of 3 months. They made no provision over and above that for the Whittington Midwives.	The only other concession apart from residential permits is the business permit scheme. Prices range from £630 to £1250 per annum.
Waltham Forest	15 minute dropping off permit for parents	No Concessions	Essential user permit averaging at £240 per annum	Business permit at £390 per annum

Appendix C – ESP charges and qualifying criteria are highlighted below:

1.1 The table below sets out current ESP charges

Banding	Current charges (schools and ministers of religion)	Building Maintenan ce	Others
A (up to 100 CO ₂ g/km)	£15.50	£206	£154.50
B (101- 150 CO ₂ g/km)	£30.90	£412	£309
C (151- 185 CO ₂ g/km)	£61.80	£515	£515
D (186 CO ₂ g/km and over)	£92.70	£618	£618

Vehicles registered before 23 March 2001, where CO₂ emissions are not documented.

Banding	Current charges (schools and ministers of religion)	Building Maintenan ce	Others
1549cc or less	£30.90	£412	£309
1550cc to 3000cc	£61.80	£515	£412
3001 and above	£92.70	£618	£515

1.2 The four categories of ESPs and the qualifying criteria are highlighted below;

Building Maintenance

- Those involved in building maintenance, whether or not it applies to private or public sector housing / buildings.

Other

- Those involved in the delivery of essential services to residents and require as part of their job to carry heavy [or hazardous] equipment or materials.
- Those involved in the delivery of essential services to residents who are required to work extended unsociable hours or are on 24-hour call out.

**This category of user includes those involved in the delivery of Health and Social Care services.*

Schools

- Schools are considered on an individual business case basis. The factors that are to be considered are operational needs, availability of car park space at the school or in the immediate area, and proximity to public transport facilities. If an application is accepted permits are issued to a named member of staff, for term time only and they may only be used on roads immediately around the school.

Ministers of Religion

- Ministers of religion qualify for a permit as there is a need for them to attend residents in their own homes. The permit issued can be used anywhere in the borough.