

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Mayoral response to the comments of the Lee Green Assembly		
Ward	All	Item No.	
Contributors	Executive Director for Customer Services, Director of Programme Management and Property and Head of Public Services		
Class	Open	Date	30 May 2012

1. Purpose

- 1.1. On 11 April 2012 the Lee Green Assembly presented a report on parking issues to Mayor and Cabinet for consideration. This report sets out the Executive Director for Customer Services response to the recommendations made by the Lee Green Assembly.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The Council's policy framework sets out the priorities ensuring efficiency and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community. In identifying the need to attract the best possible contract for the provision of the Council's parking services consideration has been given to the existing policy framework, in particular the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 2.2 The London Plan details the overall strategic plan for London setting out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years.
- 2.3 The London Mayors' Transport Strategy : Proposal 124 will seek to ensure fair and consistent enforcement of parking and loading regulations across London.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 3.1 Agree to implement a 1 hour visitor permit in response to Lee Green Assembly and Sustainable Development Select Committee recommendations.
- 3.2 Agree to provide a transparent financial statement of the parking service accounts in response to Lee Green Assembly and Sustainable Development Select Committee recommendations.
- 3.3 Agree to address the remaining recommendations made by the Lee Green Assembly and Sustainable Development Select Committee in a review of the Council's existing parking policy.
- 3.4 Agree the timetable for the review set out in paragraph 7.2

4. Background

- 4.1 A Council's parking policy has to balance the needs of those living, working, visiting and trading in the borough as well as generate income to cover the cost of parking controls and investment in the highway infrastructure. Complicating matters further is the increase in car ownership and the insatiable demand for parking spaces along with the need to reduce the harmful effects of car use on the environment . The current policy has been in place since 2001.
- 4.2 The first controlled parking zones (CPZ) in the borough were introduced in the 1983 in central Lewisham and Blackheath. In 2005 a borough wide consultation was undertaken to identify where parking problems exist and where the consultation identified a parking problem more detailed consultation was undertaken in that defined area. A CPZ will only be introduced in the roads within the defined area where votes in favour exceed 50%. Those roads that don't achieve a yes vote of more than 50% are excluded from the CPZ. Today there are 19 CPZ's covering about a third of the borough.
- 4.3 A new CPZ is only considered if the Council is made aware of issues that may need addressing. In response to these issues the Council will determine if the problem is significant enough to consider using a CPZ to address it. In a situation where the Council believes a CPZ may be appropriate it carries out a consultation exercise, with road shows, public briefings, door knocking and ultimately a vote. On the roads where the vote in a road is more than 50% the CPZ is implemented. After approximately one year a follow consultation is conducted in the same area to ensure the scheme objectives were achieved and that the roads that voted no (or less than 50% yes) are not suffering from significant problems as a result of the new CPZ which may warrant a possible extension of the scheme.
- 4.4 On 15 September 2011 the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report on parking and made a number of recommendations to the Mayor. The recommendations were; to provide financial information; to review the cost of visitor permits; to consider differential charging; and to allow permits to be paid for in monthly instalments.
- 4.5 The Executive Director for Customer Services responded to the recommendations on the 7 December 2011. The response said that it would be very difficult to deal with parking policy issues in isolation as changes would have impacts across the whole of the borough and significant financial implications. However, the response did highlight that the new parking contract, to be let in 2013, would enable the Council to offer payment by instalment.

5. Lee Green Assembly report

- 5.1 The Lee Green Assembly report that was received by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 April 2012 followed joint work done by the assembly and officers from the Parking and Highways services. The report makes 11 recommendations regarding; transparent financing; charging; flexibility and operational hours of CPZ's; consultation and implementation; business permits; and school parking.
- 5.2 The Council is grateful for the work done by the Lee Green Assembly but are unable to look at the 11 recommendations in isolation. This is because most will

have a multitude of implications across the whole borough. It is for this reason that the recommendations will be used to inform the parking policy review that is now in progress.

6. Lee Green Petition

- 6.1 On the 29 February 2012 a petition was presented to the Mayor against the increase in parking fees and the times of controlled parking zones. The petition contained the names and addresses of 205 Lee Green residents. The petition has been acknowledged and will also be used to inform the Council's review of its parking policy.

7. Parking Policy Review

- 7.1 Since the increase in parking charges in 2011 a number of parking policy issues have been questioned. Some of the questions relate specifically to the increase in charges whilst others relate to more general policy issues. For example, the time periods of controlled parking zones. It is very difficult to look at specific aspects of the policy as each and every aspect has implications across the whole borough and potentially significant financial implications.. It is for this reason that a general review of the current parking policy is underway.
- 7.2 The parking policy review is being led by Steve Gough, Director of Regeneration and Asset Management who has responsibility for Highways Services and Ralph Wilkinson, Head of Public Services, who has responsibility for the Parking Service. The parking policy review will report at various points to the Sustainable Development Select Committee and consult widely on options and recommendations. The consultation will include those who have made representations to the Council such as the Lee Green Assembly. A provisional outline timetable for the review is shown below.

Determine scope for review	April/May 2012
Sign off scope at Sustainable Development Select Committee	23 May 2012
Research / develop proposals	June - August
Consult stakeholders	September – October
Draft recommendations to Sustainable Development Select Committee	1 November 2012
Final recommendations to Mayor and Cabinet	5 December 2012

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The implementation of the 1 hour visitor permit could lead to a loss of income of up to £80K although this is a worst case scenario.

8.2 As the parking policy review is being carried out internally most of the costs will be covered by existing budgets. The consultation process will incur an additional cost but this is expected to be minimal and it should be possible to contain it with existing budgets.

8.3 The outcome of the parking policy review is likely to have significant financial implications which will require careful consideration as part of the review.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 The introduction of the 1 hour visitor permit was introduced following recommendations made to Mayor about carers of the elderly relatives being penalised by the increase in cost of visitor permits. The parking policy review will need to ensure equalities implications are considered and that an Equalities Impact Assessment is carried out..

12. Environmental Implications

12.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report but the parking policy review will need to consider environmental implications. For example, the review will look at the option of different permit charges depending on vehicle emissions.

13. Background Papers and Report author

13.1 Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Borough's car parking policies and associated charges to Mayor and Cabinet on 5 October 2011.

13.2 Mayoral response to recommendations made by the Sustainable Development Select Committee on 7 December 2011.

13.3 Lee Green Petition to Mayor and Cabinet on 29 February 2012.

13.4 Lee Green Assembly report to Mayor and Cabinet on 11 April 2012

13.5 If you require further information about this report, please contact Ralph Wilkinson, Head of Public Services, on 020 8314 6040.