

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING
HELD ON 1st OCTOBER, 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DECISION IN RESPECT OF AN INCREASE IN
THE COST OF RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D. M. Whipp	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety
J. Cooney	Caller-In
L. Davy	Caller-In
P. White	Caller-In
C. Wakeford	Scrutiny Management Team

In Attendance:

V. Green	Financial Services Manager
S. Farnell	Transport and Co-ordination Manager, Neighbourhood Services
L. Rowland	Committee Administrator
J. Watson	Senior Committee Administrator

Chairman

Councillor C. Wakeford	Chairman – Scrutiny Management Team
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Decision Called In

At its meeting on 17th September, 2015 the Executive took the decision shown in the minute below and resolution (3) was subsequently called in by Councillors J. Cooney, L. Davy and P. White:

“74. INCOME REVIEW 2015

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report which reviewed the fees and charges in advance of the 2016/2017 budget process in line with the Fees and Charges Policy and in response to the significant financial pressures faced by the Council.

RESOLVED

That – ...

- (3) the cost of residents' parking permits be increased from £17 to £20 with effect from 1st January, 2016 with a further increase to £22.50 in 2017; ...”

REASONS FOR CALL IN

Councillor Cooney explained that the reason for the Call In was that it was felt that an increase of just fewer than 33% over two years was not proportionate to either the increase in the cost of living or for the service which was provided. He said that there was a need to look at various aspects of the scheme, in particular, value for money, the cost of managing the scheme, issuing permits and enforcement before any decision to increase the cost of residents' parking permits could be made. He also asked if the proposed increase would cover the cost of the scheme or whether the income received exceeded this cost.

ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION

Through discussion the following three actions were suggested:

- (1) That the current residents' only parking schemes be reviewed; were they all still required.
- (2) That discussions be held with the County Council regarding the scope to share the fines income with Pendle.
- (3) That the County Council be asked if they could assist towards the deficit position.

REASON FOR DECISION

The feeling was that some schemes were no longer required and that this would be a good time to review them. It was acknowledged however, that for a scheme to be considered for removal a petition from residents asking for this to be undertaken was required. A survey would then also be undertaken. The process was lengthy and there were cost implications to this. Some schemes were also more profitable than others.

The County Council did used to underwrite the deficit of administering the permits and it was felt appropriate that they be asked to do this again. It was also noted that Pendle was different in as far as we look at the introduction of new schemes, including the survey work that this entails, on behalf of County Council, and these costs are also included in the above deficit.

DISCUSSION

During continuing discussion the following additional points were made:

- The majority of permits were issued during January and February.
- 553 permits had been issued to date which generated an income of £9,411. The cost ran at £12,430 therefore resulting in a deficit.
- The County Council received the income from the penalty charges.
- Funding had been allocated from Colne and District Committee for the introduction of a residents' only parking scheme around the Cragg Street/Fothergill Street area of Colne some time ago. A decision from the County Council had not yet been received.
- It was suggested that the Council put pressure on the County Council to implement new schemes and to look at underwriting the deficit from the enforcement penalties received.
- Time given to enforcing the schemes was unknown. This was carried out by the County's Lancashire Parking Services who contracted this work out to NSL.
- In the 2014/15 financial year the deficit was £3,020. Increasing the cost of the parking permits to £22.50 would have bridged that gap.