



# Northumberland

## County Council

### RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

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#### NORTHUMBERLAND RESIDENT AND VISITOR PARKING PERMIT CHARGE INCREASE

**Service Director: Paul Jones, Service Director - Local Services**  
**Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services**

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#### Purpose of Report

To consider the increase in charge to resident and visitor permits within Northumberland, so that the statutory processes can be commenced in time to deliver the proposed budget savings identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 .

#### Recommendations

**It is recommended that the following increases are made to resident and visitor parking permits available in Northumberland:-**

- **Residents Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period**
- **Visitors Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period**

#### Link to Corporate Plan

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

## **Delegated Decision Report**

### **Key Issues**

1. The Council has a £10 million investment plan to improve parking across Northumberland. Alongside this, the authority also has significant financial pressures which it needs to address.
2. In order to help fund the raft of changes and improvements proposed for the parking public and to address other budgetary pressures, any charges for services that have not been reviewed for a considerable amount of time have been assessed and considered against charges in other local authorities. Increased income generated from charges will assist in future investment in services across the county and safeguard key front line services that ensure the county remains an attractive place to live, work, or visit.
3. Permit charges in Northumberland have not been reviewed since before the unitary authority was formed in April 2009.
4. During the past 12 months there have been 3450 Resident and Visitor Permits issued and the increase from £15 to £25 will increase the income from £49,395 to £82,325 creating £32,930 of additional income each year. This accords with the proposed saving of £30k relating to Residents Parking Permits, identified within the revenue budget proposals for 2019/20 that were approved by Cabinet on the 12th February 2019 and will now be formally considered by the County Council.
5. In light of the Cabinet decision it is now necessary to start the formal process for amending the Traffic Regulation Order so that it can come into effect from 1st April 2019, subject to County Council approving the budget proposals on 20th February 2019. Resident and Visitor Parking Permits are subject to annual renewal at various times throughout the year depending on when schemes were originally implemented. It will be necessary to issue a letter on 1st March 2019 notifying those residents whose permits require renewal from 1st April 2019 of the proposed new charges. Other residents will be notified as their renewal becomes due through the year.
6. The scheme is supported by County Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services

## **Delegated Decision Report**

### **NORTHUMBERLAND PARKING PERMIT CHARGE INCREASE**

#### **Background**

7. Since before the creation of the unitary authority in 2009, there has not been any formal review, or increase to any charges relating to chargeable permits within Northumberland. Consideration of these charges has therefore been undertaken within the budget 2019/20 proposals.
8. Resident and visitors permits are requested by residents where there is a need to manage parking in a particular area. Residents and visitors permit schemes have generally been implemented to assist residents in areas where on street parking pressures and issues have been identified, such as around schools and in historic and busy town centres.
9. The current £15 charge for the resident and visitors permit is meant to cover the administrative cost of producing the permit and postage. Administration of the scheme includes annual renewal letters, checking returned forms for eligibility and that vehicles are registered to the address, processing payments and issuing permits, and these exceed the current £15 charge. Further costs are also expended through the management and enforcement of the permit schemes themselves.
10. A review of charges across the region has been carried out and the proposed charges are comparable with those charged in Newcastle, Gateshead and Durham.
11. Bearing in mind that there have been no increases since 2009, that the cost of administering the permit scheme is not being fully met by the current charge and that increasing the charge to £25 is comparable to other regional benchmarks, it is recommended that the following charges be implemented from 1st April 2019.
  - Residents Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period
  - Visitors Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period
12. In light of the Cabinet decision it is now necessary to start the formal process for amending the Traffic Regulation Order so that it can come into effect from 1st April 2019, subject to County Council approving the budget proposals on 20th February 2019. Resident and Visitor Parking Permits are subject to annual renewal at various times throughout the year depending on when schemes were originally implemented. It will be necessary to issue a letter on 1st March 2019 notifying those

## Delegated Decision Report

residents whose permits require renewal from 1st April 2019 of the proposed new charges. Other residents will be notified as their renewal becomes due through the year.

13. The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended an inquiry is not held.

## Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The proposal will increase income and forms part of the budget savings measures being considered by County Council on 20th February 2019.
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	EIA carried out Nov 2018
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Increased income generated from the increased permit charge will assist in future investment in parking services within the county, whilst at the same time safeguard key front line services that ensure the county remains an attractive place to live, work, or visit.

## Delegated Decision Report

<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	County Wide

### Background papers:

None

### Appendix Index:

### Report sign off.

***Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	initials
Finance Officer	AM
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

**Report Author**

**Dan Fraser – Programme Officer (Highway Safety)**  
**(01670) 624125**  
**Daniel.Fraser@northumberland.gov.uk**

## Delegated Decision Report

### DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer:** Paul Jones - Service Director -Local Services

**Title of Cabinet Member** Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

**Subject:** Northumberland Resident and Visitor Permit Charge Increase

**Decision Taken:** To introduce the following increases to Northumberland Resident and Visitor Parking Permits:-

- Residents Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period
- Visitors Permits - Increase from £15 for a 12 month period to £25 for a 12 month period

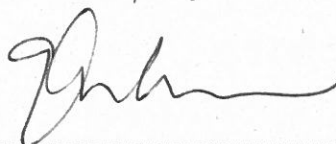
Signature of Director



Date

13/2/19

Signature of Cabinet Member



Date

13 February 2019