



Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: 13th April 2015

Briefing of: Cabinet Member for Parking and Sustainability

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1 Greener City Action Plan

- 1.1 A final draft was agreed at Cabinet Briefing (9th Feb) subject to minor alterations. A Cabinet Member report is being drafted for publication and sign off. This will be published with the full action plan and the new web-based platform. The action plan will be submitted to P&S for annual reporting and updates.

2 Residential Electric Vehicle Recharging Proposal

- 2.1 The Council has agreed to pilot a residents-only electric vehicle recharging network. This 18 month project will provide two or three residential-only recharging bays. This trial is intended to cover issues such as parking priorities in residential areas, street management and charging regime in order to identify a sustainable market model.
- 2.2 We have identified three potential areas for the pilot (based on current electric vehicle owners, general parking pressures, and residents' requests). These are the areas around: Vincent Square, Belgrave Square, and Sussex Gardens.
- 2.3 The City Council has been involved in a pan-London bid to secure £20m for residential and business engagement on electric vehicles. This £20m bid's key projects include: electrifying all the car club bays in London; delivering a residential car club model for London; delivering 10 "Ultra low emission neighbourhoods" which will be residential and business areas; and wider education and awareness.

3 Blue Point London (Source London) / Point to Point (Car Club)

- 3.1 The City Council continues to meet with Blue Point London to discuss details key points of their proposal. Blue Point London have agreed to take on the maintenance and energy costs for the recharging points. The new contract proposal from Blue Point London is being reviewed.
- 3.2 It has been agreed that Point to Point car club schemes will not be pursued at the moment in Westminster, due to the potential risk of drawing in more vehicles into central London. The North London pilot scheme will be monitored and evaluated before any further consideration is made.
- 3.3 Following a meeting held with Zipcar on 17th March and my subsequent representation at the London Councils' TEC meeting on 19th March, we did endorse a Car Club Strategy for London subject to the 'Car Club Coalition' involving the City Council on various issues. These are the Point to Point concern, holding a three month progress review of the strategy and its work plan and the need to encourage corporate and business membership (as long as it does not detrimentally impact on more sustainable modes). Working within the Coalition could be an effective means to achieve this aim, as the Westminster car club is lagging behind in this respect.

4 Air Quality Lobbying

- 4.1 At the last Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee (2nd March) it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Mayor/TfL from the Cabinet Member for Sustainability & Parking and the Chairman of the Committee lobbying for more action to improve air quality and this letter has been sent.

5 Air Quality Monitoring

- 5.1 There is a plan to move the Oxford Street air quality monitoring station to a near-by, comparable location due to maintenance issues. We are seeking to ensure there is no disruption to continuity or quality of data for air quality assessment purposes.

6 Waste and Delivery & Servicing Vehicle Consolidation

- 6.1 Various programmes are being developed to reduce vehicle numbers in the West End / Oxford Street area. A steering group led by WCC Officers comprising of WCC, the New West End Company (NWEC) and Cross River Partnership (a public private partnership which delivers a wide range of externally-funded, multi-partner regeneration projects) has been formed to ensure the separate waste, freight and other air quality related programmes are developed and delivered in synergy.

7 Public Health (PH) / Sustainability projects (for information)

7.1 Two projects tackling childhood obesity and tooth decay improvement are being developed that support the Greener City Action Plan:

- Food growing project in Church Street with links to schools – pilot project in 2015 with potential to expand across other estates in Westminster. Fisherston Estate will be the first site, and two schools (Gateway and King Solomon) will be approached to gauge interest in being a pilot project. Terry Oliver from K&C is being seconded one day a week for 3 months to help deliver the pilot project and formulate the expansion plan.
- Water Fountains/Community water points – officers are exploring partnership working with TfL to introduce refilling points at tube stations, encourage new drinking fountains in new major developments, and run a potential pilot with Victoria BID on a cost-neutral basis for WCC. A meeting has been set with Thames Water to establish their commitment and views.

8 Retrofitting the Westminster Archives Centre

8.1 A business case is being developed for an exemplar building retrofit project at the Westminster Archives Centre. Costs are likely to be <£300K with a payback of less than 7 years. These costs will be met by the Carbon Off-Set Fund, secured from developments that cannot meet the required carbon reductions on site.

9 Code of Construction Practice

9.1 A policy approach is being developed by officers including Legal in order to deliver an enhanced Code of Construction Practice service to cover a wider range of developments. This service is being costed and a delivery model to include mandatory and discretionary elements of current services is being developed. The Code of Construction Practice underpins the new Basement policy, which will be formally consulted on in May/June. The intention is to provide a cost-neutral and integrated service covering issues such as noise, dust, air pollution and the management of vehicles, licensing, enforcement, inspections, and employment.

10 Parking Services

10.1 The new Parking Service contract is performing well. Following Queries at the last P&S on difficulties renewing their permit, the renewal letter was revised and more resources put into telephone helplines. In February there were 100 complaints for 8000 applications/renewals, and figures are improving. Focus remains on improving the customer experience, and enhancements to simplify the resident permit portal are due to be implemented in the coming weeks.

10.2 The Parking Debt Management contract with Marston has been extended to February 2017. Marston has demonstrated an intelligent and ethical approach since the start of their contract and we will work together to develop the service.

11 Deregulation Bill

11.1 The Deregulation Bill will become law in early April as the Government (through DCLG) fast tracked the process prior to the parliamentary recess. The Bill/Act has brought into law the following;

- The banning of the use of CCTV to enforce parking restrictions for all contraventions except in the following instances -vehicles parking on school keep clear markings & on bus stop clearways (note, red routes & bus lanes are also exempted but we do not enforce these). The enforcement of moving traffic contraventions (MTCs) by CCTV is unaffected.
- The introduction of a 10 minute grace period where a vehicle has been left beyond a period of permitted parking within a designated parking bay. This would apply whenever controls begin, when a period of payment to park expires and upon the expiration of a 'free' parking period during controls.

11.2 The new policies will have operational, financial and contractual implications for Parking Services. All actions are in place to ensure compliance with effect from the commencement date and an initial impact analysis has been produced.

12 Vehicle Idling

12.1 Marshals are now taking action against stationary vehicles parked by the roadside with their engines idling. Initially starting with a driver education programme, Marshals will be asking motorists to turn off their engines explaining about the impact of leaving the engine running in terms of air and noise pollution.

12.2 From 1st May 2015, formal enforcement of the idling legislation will begin. Marshals will issue a £20 fixed penalty notice for vehicles found in contravention of this regulation, when drivers refuse to turn off their engine.

12.3 The Communications programme to promote the idling enforcement work of the City marshals began on 23rd March. Widespread support has been received for this new policy following a successful media campaign, including from the Westminster BIDs, resident associations, the Mayor of London, Clean Air in London and other green campaigners.

13 Occupancy Survey

13.1 The 2015 city-wide Parking Occupancy Survey is well underway and the 'Stage 4' report should be ready for the Committee to consider after the project's June deadline. In the meantime progress is summarised as follows:

- Stage 1 - An updated 2015 inventory of all parking signs and lines on all streets across Westminster. Completed.
- Stage 2 - Occupancy survey beats across 11 distinct timeframes. We have teams of approximately 20 enumerators working on the streets each day/night and all of central Parking Zones E and G have been surveyed. The remaining Parking Zones will be surveyed over April.
- Stage 3 – Transference of the occupancy data onto the new 2015 base inventory. This work has commenced.

It is too soon to reveal any preliminary trends that may result from the 2015 Parking Occupancy Survey but variance from the previous 2011 survey across Westminster is anticipated, given the increase in pedestrian, cycling, delivery vehicle and bus usage in central London and the impact of this on our kerbside.

14 New Disabled Bay Sensor Pilot

14.1 With joint funding from TfL, bay sensors will be installed in disabled bays across the City by the summer. White badge holders will be issued with a new electronic permit (RFID tag) that will communicate with the sensor technology to validate their eligibility to park in the bay. This will allow us to help ensure the bays are kept clear for genuine white badge holders.

15 Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge

15.1 Wandsworth Council's Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge Design Competition attracted over 80 expressions of interest from a range of high profile, international architectural practices, all of which submitted designs for a new pedestrian/cycle bridge between Nine Elms and Pimlico

15.2 The first stage of the competition asked for designs for *any* landing site between Grosvenor and Vauxhall bridges but most entries focussed on 2 landing sites – with many proposing to land their bridge in Pimlico Gardens, and some further west and closer to Dolphin Square tennis courts. The 74 initial bridge design submissions are all available to view online here: www.nepbridgecompetition.co.uk/gallery.

15.3 Four design teams were shortlisted and will be invited to proceed to Stage 2 of the design competition, which we understand will start after the election in May. At this second stage, Wandsworth will identify their preferred landing site

locations to the shortlisted teams to allow them to work up more detail and site specific designs.

- 15.4 Although a winning design *team* is due to be declared by Wandsworth Council in September, this is not a live project and there is no commitment from Wandsworth, TfL or others for the bridge to actually be built.
- 15.5 Westminster City Council officers are awaiting details of Stage 2 and the site selection process and we continue to reiterate our objections to the proposal.

16 East-West Cycle Superhighway

- 16.1 Council officers are preparing a response to the Mayor's latest consultation for sections of the route through The Royal Parks and re-consultation on proposals for Lancaster Gate gyratory.
- 16.2 There are on-going discussions with TfL for WCC proposals for Parliament Square.
- 16.3 Work will start on 11th April at Hyde Park corner to widen the cycle path at Wellington Arch. Works at Victoria embankment will start on 27th April.