

Environment & Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: 7th March 2016

Briefing of: Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Parking

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1 Greener City Action Plan

- 1.1 A follow up event is to be held for stakeholders later this month to discuss progress made so far and the future plans on the Greener City Action Plan.

2 Biodiversity and Open Spaces

- 2.1 The final report by Groundwork on the Open Space and Biodiversity Study is nearing completion. This report will form a part of the Open Space and Biodiversity Strategy.
- 2.2 The proposal for the strategy is to be discussed at this meeting. Member comments would be gratefully received for their input into finalising the strategy.

3 Air Quality Bids

- 3.1 Consultants have been appointed to compile a full bid for the Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) in Marylebone. Steer Davies Gleave is carrying out research and held meetings with key stakeholders in the area and also with officers. Any suggestions from the Committee on ideas that could be implemented to improve air quality in Marylebone would be invaluable at this stage.

- 3.2 Westminster City Council (WCC) has been successful as part of a pan London bid from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles to benefit from the Ultra-Low City Scheme which has funded London £13 million. A steering group has been formed to allocate the funding and Westminster has representation.
- 3.3 We were unsuccessful in our bid to the Mayors Air Quality Fund (MAQF) to support our Westminster based Innovation Fund to support local schools and businesses to implement air quality improvement measures.

4 Residential Electric Vehicle Recharging Proposal

- 4.1 Officers are finalising scheme details to pilot a residents-only electric vehicle recharging network. Three areas have been identified (based on requests from residents and on-street availability): Vincent Square, Belgrave Square and Sussex Gardens. Three other locations are being considered where points are already installed but malfunctioning; these are Abbey Road and the St James and Warwick areas.
- 4.2 Access to the charging will be shared by residents who are members of a residential recharging scheme, live within the local residents' parking zone and hold a residential parking permit. Users will pay an annual fee to use the points.

5 Electric Vehicle Recharging Points

- 5.1 Officers have met with Blue Point London (BPL) to discuss key contractual points of their proposal for the scheme they have taken over from Source London. There remain some concerns about the BPL proposal and a further meeting is to be held in early March.
- 5.2 Officers have also met with other charge point operators and are comparing proposed schemes. The imperative is to ensure that the network is fully operational as soon as possible, with a medium to long term objective of expansion. The provision of free electric charging is unlikely to be sustainable under any new arrangement, with either Source London or another operator.

6 Zip Car (car club) Electric Vehicle Charging points

- 6.1 43 car club bays have been identified as locations for the installation of double head Electric Vehicle charging points to support the operation of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) supplied by Zipcar. The installation project commenced on 8th February and continues on a rolling basis incorporating UK Power Network and British Gas connection and metering. The first of the new points will be operational at the end of March/beginning of April.
- 6.2 A revised Car Club Strategy is currently being prepared by Steer Davies Gleave; it will help us define the environment for car club providers to operate in Westminster.

7 City-wide Parking Tariffs

- 7.1 Pay-to-Park tariff increases are being implemented by zone across the City, as part of the Strategic Parking Policy review. The changes are planned to be complete by 7th March. To recap, the changes can be summarised as:
- A 1.9% increase across the city to reflect the weighted average increase in occupancy in paid-for bays since the last city-wide occupancy survey in 2011.
 - a further parking 'stress' mitigation measure in the zones of the highest occupancy levels, namely B, E & F.
 - Ending lower post-13.30 tariff trial in E zone.
 - F3 and F6 tariff alignment with the rest of F zone.
 - A cross-boundary mitigation measure in C zone.
 - Trades Permit charges have also been increased.
- 7.2 The next phase of the review will look at an emission based charging structure for resident permits and begin to assess differentiated on-street charging.

8 Operation Neon

- 8.1 Operation Neon continues to address hot spot taxi parking issues and discussions are underway with Transport for London in respect of its continuation in 2016. Cumulative results from 8th May 2015 to 16th January 2016 as follows:
- 74 Operations.
 - 6122 PHV drivers advised and moved on to keep roads clear for taxis and booked PHVs.

- 351 PHV drivers were reported for not having a badge and were stopped from working for the remainder of the evening.
- 3757 PHV drivers were reported for not wearing their badge.
- 60 PHV drivers reported for plying for hire offences.
- 770 PHV drivers reported for parking on Taxi ranks.
- 1644 Parking tickets issued.

9 Vehicle Idling

- 9.1 Marshals continue to take action against vehicles idling and advising drivers to switch off their engines with over 900 drivers (to 14th February 2016) having been spoken to. Only 6 refused to do so or had suitable reasons for needing the engine on. Marshals have the ability to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to drivers who fail to comply but none has been issued to date.

10 Clean Air Action Days

- 10.1 We are working with Cross River Partnership (CRP) on two Clean Air Action Days in early March on 9th and 16th March. They form part of the Clean Air Action Fortnight which will focus on no idling across London. In addition to our Marshals, CRP are recruiting volunteers who will encourage drivers to turn their engines off when stationary to reduce dirty air from exhausts. The Victoria and Paddington Business Improvement Districts are involved and will suggest hotspots around their individual areas where cars are known to wait or idle.

11.1 Unauthorised Suspensions

- 11.1 This financial year over £650k of income for Parking Suspensions has been recovered from companies who were taking up parking spaces without booking a suspension.

12 Shared Services / Partnership Working

- 12.1 Officers in Parking are scoping opportunities for shared service delivery models and partnership working with two London Boroughs. These include proposals for the Westminster Parking Team to deliver the delegated functions on behalf of another London Borough (in respect of Penalty Charge Notice representations and appeals) and entering into a Partnership Agreement for joint research, development and future procurement.

13 Bay Sensor Programme and ParkRight Smartphone App technology developments

- 13.1 Officers are preparing a report which will set out how we maximise the benefits of the bay sensor technology, incorporating the learning from Phase One and the positive reaction to the Disabled E-Permit trial. This report will also consider the merits of rolling the sensors out to other parts of the city.
- 13.2 Discussions with the developer for the next version of the ParkRight app are underway. The imperative is to improve the interface to make it simpler to pay. Payment by Smartphone application accounts for nearly half of all cashless parking transactions. The next version of the app will also include information for cyclists, such as the locations of cycle stands and Cycle Hire docking stations, as well as real time availability of electric vehicle recharging stations.
- 13.3 Funding from the Department for Transport's Intelligent Transport Systems division has been received to explore the wider application of the bay sensor and app technology, and the wider application potential of the real-time data. This programme will explore how the Council's data can be utilised in 'connected vehicles' to make it easier to navigate to available parking spaces, thereby reducing circling and the associated impacts of congestion.

14 Coach Parking 2016/17 projects

- 14.1 A meeting was held with TfL on Wednesday 17 February to determine how key TfL London Tour Coach Action Plan objectives are being developed in Westminster in partnership with the City Council and TfL.
- 14.2 One potential project is TfL considering the feasibility of implementing bay sensors in non-paid for coach waiting bays on the Mayor's Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). If viable it would be the intention to associate this project with the City Council's Parkright App system and thus become a one-stop facility for coach drivers visiting central London.
- 14.3 Before the summer peak season commences officers are to work with The Royal Parks to determine how the dormant The Mall coach park in St James's Park can be reopened for business. This should reduce the congestion, road safety and engine idling concerns that arise on Buckingham Gate when coaches park on that road. Finally consideration will be made on how to promote the Kingsway bays in the light of the loss of those on Victoria Embankment through the Mayor's East to West Cycle Superhighway scheme.

15 The Walking Strategy

- 15.1 A draft strategy is nearing completion and **once finalised** will go out for public consultation later in March.

16 Cycle Schemes

- 16.1 The cycle station is now running six times per month. The hope is that we can increase this to eight by spring if suitable sites are found. The site at Soho has been replaced with a site at Vauxhall Bridge due to poor attendance. This new location is proving popular.
- 16.2 The bike loan pilot has been run twice at the Beethoven Centre and once at The Learning and Development Centre in Woodhouse which is operated by City West Homes. Both sites will run the scheme again in the spring.
- 16.3 User testing for the Public health app promoting cycling and walking will be conducted in the spring with a full roll out over the coming months.
- 16.4 A short promotional video has been produced that focuses on the personal experience of the effects of taking cycle training using interview material with previous trainees. We have nearly finished releasing the series of nine videos designed to promote cycle training and we will release the new video once we have finished the current course.

17 Central London Cycle Grid

- 17.1 Since the end of January there have been three more Quietway routes out for consultation. These are Hyde Park to Fitzrovia, Bayswater Road to Edgware Road and Hyde Park to South Kensington. Details of the proposals can be found at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/cycling-consultations>.
- 17.2 Consultation on Cycle Superhighway 11 (CS11) went out for consultation on the 8th February. TfL is leading on the consultation. Details of the proposal can be found here: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/cycling/cs-11?cid=cs11>.
- 17.3 Consultation for Cycle Superhighway East West from Paddington to Acton went out for consultation on the 8th February. TfL is leading on the consultation. Details of the proposal can be found here: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/cycling/east-west-phase-2?cid=east-west-consult>.

17.4 Works for the Cycle Superhighway East West began at Lancaster Gate and St James's Park & Green Park in February 2016. Both are expected to be completed in the spring.

18 Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge

18.1 Following the petition that was handed to the Council by local resident group leaders opposing the proposed bridge, an inquiry has been launched by the Council's Policy and Scrutiny Committee to gather information about the project and local concerns. As such the Committee reviewed the Nine Elms Bridge on the 18th January meeting key witnesses including representatives from Wandsworth Council, the Nine Elms Partnership and TfL who presented their cases for the bridge. Westminster's residential community were also able to voice their concerns.