



Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: Monday 2nd March 2015

Briefing of: Cabinet Member for Parking and Sustainability

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PARKING

1 New Contracted Parking Service

- 1.1 The new contracted Parking Service is now fully operational with NSL.
- 1.2 Differences in the payment system from the previous pay-by-phone system were noted by a few customers but any inconsistencies were quickly rectified. Only a handful of complaints have been received from tens of thousands of daily transactions.
- 1.3 Following the implementation of the new parking contracts, the service has stabilised and is operating within service levels. Further enhancements to both the resident permit application and suspension online portal are in progress.

2 New Business Processing and Technology Contract

The new Business Processing and Technology contract was implemented successfully in November.

3 New Online Resident Permit Service

A few people experienced difficulties using the new on-line resident permit service and some disabled badge holders also faced delays. Manual intervention ensured that permits were issued quickly and applicants were contacted (by telephone where possible) to be given reassurance. The service is now operating as expected and further improvements to the self-serve web portal will be implemented over the next few months.

4 The Marshalling Approach

The Marshalling approach continues to be positively received by members of the public. The feedback from Marshals is that there is already a positive shift in customer attitude and behaviour and this is supported by the fact that we have seen a significant reduction in the volume of complaints and the number of physical and verbal assaults against Marshals. Under the contract, Marshals were issued with new handheld technology to support their role, and have quickly adapted to the new equipment. Performance has returned as anticipated to pre-implementation levels within a few weeks. Marshals are now being trained to take on new on-street responsibilities.

5 Occupancy Survey

A city-wide occupancy survey has been commissioned to establish how the controls and approach to managing the kerbside is impacting on traffic management. The last survey was carried out in 2011.

6 ParkRight App

The bay sensors and the new ParkRight app were fully implemented in October and the team is already working on a new version of the app for release in the spring/summer

SUSTAINABILITY

7 Greener City Action Plan

7.1 A final draft of the action plan (previously known as the Environmental Sustainability Strategy) was reviewed and agreed, subject to minor alterations, by my Cabinet colleagues on 9th February. This Committee will receive a revised version incorporating those changes.

7.2 The Plan will be signed off as a Cabinet Member decision in March, with a launch in May or June 2015.

7.3 The Plan, which will engage stakeholders and encourage involvement, will be promoted through a web-based platform.

8 Residential Lead Electric Vehicle Recharging Proposal

8.1 The Council has agreed to pilot a residents' only electric vehicle recharging network. This 18 month project will set up two residential only recharging bays and test issues such as parking priorities in residential areas and street

management with the aim of delivering a market model that can be taken forward on a sustainable basis.

8.2 The City Council has also participated in a pan-London bid to secure £20m for residential and business engagement on electric vehicles. The 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 constitute residential and business areas; and
- Wider education and awareness.

Shortlisting will be announced in mid-March.

9 Blue Point London (Source London)

9.1 The City Council continues to meet Blue Point London and we are still discussing details on key points of their proposal.

9.2 Blue Point London have agreed to remove all aspects of their "Point to Point" car club and they have agreed to take on the maintenance and energy costs for the recharging points.

10 Car Club/Point to Point

It has been agreed that Point to Point car club schemes should not be pursued in Westminster, due to their potential risk of drawing in more vehicles into central London. The North London scheme will also be monitored and evaluated before any further consideration is made.

11 Biodiversity and Open Space Study

11.1 All 2014 site audits have been completed: more than 200 of the borough's public and private open spaces have now been assessed and the ACCESS database containing the collated data is under construction, informed by discussion with Greenspace Information by Greater London (GiGL).

11.2 The new Policy, Performance and Communications Department will be leading the analysis of this data and will revisit the Biodiversity & Open Space Strategy based on this data and the findings and recommendations of the Open Space Study.

12 Air Quality

A full report is being discussed at this meeting.

13 Public Health/Sustainability Projects

Two projects tackling childhood obesity and tooth decay improvement are being developed that support the Greener City Action Plan: a food growing project in Church Street with links to schools (a pilot project is being established in 2015 with potential to expand across other estates in Westminster) and community water points (officers are exploring partnership working with TfL to introduce refilling points at tube stations).

14 Retrofitting the Westminster Archives Centre

A business case is being developed for an exemplar building retrofit project at the Westminster Archives Centre. A funding bid has also been submitted to 'Drain London' to fund a green living wall on the southern aspect of the building.

15 Schools Sustainable Design Project

Officers have been working with Vital Regeneration and Farrell Associates to support GCSE students from Westminster Academy and King Solomon Academy understand more about Sustainable Design. Students are now designing their ideal scheme for sites in the Church Street regeneration. It has been agreed to sponsor a low carbon prize for the winning school through the Council's Go Green Funds.

16 Code of Construction Practice

Counsel advice is being sought on various aspects of enforceability of the extended Code of Construction Practice.

17 Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge

- 17.1 Wandsworth Council's Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge Design Competition attracted more than 80 expressions of interest from a range of high profile, international architectural practices (as yet unidentified). 74 concept designs have subsequently been submitted and anonymous copies of each will be displayed at public exhibitions at the Westminster Boating Base, Pimlico and the Rose Centre, Wandsworth on 23rd-24th February and 27th-28th respectively and also online: www.nepbridgecompetition.co.uk.

- 17.2 Whilst officers continue to reiterate the Council's serious concerns about the proposed bridge, a number of South Westminster residents have accepted invitations from Wandsworth's appointed consultants, Colander, to take part in a Residents' Review Panel to consider the applications and make recommendations to a Jury Panel before a winning team is chosen by Wandsworth Council in the summer.
- 17.3 The exact location of where this bridge is proposed to be located has yet to be selected and much work still needs to be done on this key point. Stage 2 of the design competition, which will ask successful entrants to put forward their design for a specific location between Nine Elms and Pimlico, will take place after the general election.
- 17.4 This is not a live development project and Westminster City Council officers continue to reiterate our strong objections to the proposals. We have already received letters of objection to the bridge from the Westminster Boating Base, and have held meetings with Churchill and Tachbrook Ward Councillors and local amenity societies.

18 East-West Cycle Superhighway

- 18.1 The TfL Board agreed on 4th February to progress the scheme to construction, beginning on 27th April on the first sections of the route.
- 18.2 A consultation is currently underway (closing on 29th March) for sections of the route through The Royal Parks and re-consultation on proposals for the Lancaster Gate gyratory.
- 18.3 The City Council supports the overall scheme in principle, but needs to see a solution for Parliament Square that addresses concerns raised, and will not approve this element until agreement is reached.

19 Cycle Strategy and Projects

- 19.1 Abandoned Bikes – A bike building scheme has been identified to be the recipient of abandoned bikes collected by the City Council. We are in discussions with Westminster Academy, who have an ideal site for the workshop. Once the venue is confirmed, a Bike Building Course will be run alongside the Abandoned Bikes Programme.
- 19.2 Bike Loan Scheme – A number of sites will be able to offer 80 bikes on loan with support for the borrowers, 60 at our Bike it Hub schools and 20 for users of the Beethoven centre.
- 19.3 Ride Leader training - This is being offered to community groups who want to ride together. Sports Development will be taking it up so as to enable trainees to move between sporting venues by bike.

- 19.4 Big Spring Event – We have identified two venues to run two events in the spring. Further details will be confirmed shortly.
- 19.5 Westminster Cycle Station – There are now four venues - Hyde Park, Paddington Station, Soho and Wellington Street (Aldwych). We have already doubled the signup rate for adult training as a result of this programme.
- 19.6 Incentive Scheme – In conjunction with Public Health and Imperial College we are developing a smartphone app to help people increase activity levels and improve health. Delivery of the app is expected within three months.