

Halesowen Area Committee -

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Objections to Disabled Parking Places

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee support for a change to the reporting procedure for objections to disabled parking places.

Background

2. Disabled parking places are made by Traffic Regulation Order so that disabled people (Blue Badge Holders) are able to park outside or near to their home. The Orders for the establishment of parking places are introduced approximately twice every year.
3. In order to speed up the process for applicants, in June 2003, the Cabinet Member for Transportation agreed that the sites which were not objected to could be implemented without reporting to Area Committee, subject to prior consultation with Ward Members. This is normally carried out by letter, before the Order is advertised.
4. Applications which are not objected to, are implemented as a separate "Order in part" via Decision Memo. Applications which receive objections are currently reported to the relevant Area Committee.
5. Because of the nature of the applications this has led to sometimes acrimonious debate at Area Committee if both the applicant and objectors are present. It has also led to comments or discussion about an applicant's level of disability, which of course is very personal. Indeed at one Committee, an applicant was reduced to tears, and it is therefore considered not to be fair or satisfactory to subject any applicant to this type of personal discussion in a public area.
6. It is therefore proposed to change the reporting procedure for objections as outlined in paragraph 11 of this report. This change in procedure also has the added benefit of speeding up the process for those applications which receive objections.

Finance

7. Implementation of on-street disabled parking places Orders is estimated at £500.00 each and, subject to funding being made available, would be funded from the Highways budget.

Law

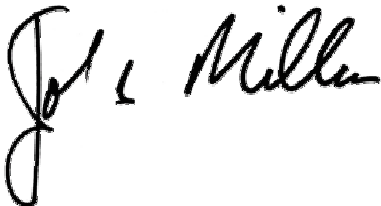
8. On-street parking places reserved for permit holders are made under Section 45(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
9. Orders in part are made under the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Equality Impact

10. The proposals contained in this report are intended to benefit registered disabled people by assisting them to park near their homes and live in the community.

Recommendation

11. The Cabinet Member for Transportation has delegated powers under the terms of the constitution to deal with Traffic Regulation Orders which receive objections. It is therefore proposed that the Area Committee supports the change in procedure so as to remove those applications for disabled parking places which receive objections, from the Area Committee arena, and to deal with the objections by Decision Sheet following full and proper consultation with the relevant Ward Members.



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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: G.E. Isherwood
Telephone: 01384 825459
Email: Graham.Isherwood@dudley.gov.uk

Jill Wakeman
Telephone: 01384 815453
Email: Jill.Wakeman@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

There are no background papers