

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Lynne Stagg, at her meeting held on Thursday, 26 September 2019 at 4.30 pm in The Executive Meeting Room - Third Floor, The Guildhall

Present

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member

Councillor Simon Boshier,
Conservative Opposition Spokesperson

28. Apologies (AI 1)

Councillor Heaney had apologised for not being able to attend at the start of the meeting due to lecturing commitments but hoped to join later.

29. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

30. Review discretionary travel before 9:30 for disabled pass holders (AI 3)

Felicity Tidbury, Acting Assistant Director Transport, presented the Director of Regeneration's report, and reported that there was only 3 month's data available on the trial with the bus companies, therefore an extension was being requested to enable robust analysis.

Councillor Stagg queried the statement in paragraph 3.4 of the report which should specify that this concessionary travel related to disabled passengers only, which was confirmed. In response to a question from Councillor Boshier, Simon Bell, Principal Public Transport Officer, clarified that whilst the trial was 5 months in only 3 months' data was available and this had been over the summer period so the full pattern needed to be established. Councillor Stagg was pleased with how this was helping those attending educational establishments.

DECISION: An extension to the trial of the discretionary disabled concession before 0930 pilot until the 31 March 2020 was approved, to enable consultation and a robust evaluation of the trial.

31. Review of Companion Pass entitlement (AI 4)

Felicity Tidbury, Acting Assistant Director Transport, presented the Director of Regeneration's report, explaining the premise for the scheme to be revised based on service users' needs for a companion and not their financial status.

This approach was supported by both Councillor Stagg and Councillor Boshier.

DECISION: The 12-month revision to the Companion Pass entitlement criteria was agreed and the requirement to review the scheme after 12 months was noted.

32. Albert Road Proposed Amendment to parking restriction under TRO 87/2019 (AI 5)

Councillor Stagg referred to points raised in a written deputation from a resident from Chelsea Road regarding concern of setting a precedent in Albert Road and balancing the business needs with those of residents in the MD parking zone area and noting that it was a request from one business. Deputations are not minuted in full but the webcast of the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Cabinet-TT-26Sep2019>

Kevin McKee, Parking Manager, presented the report and responded to points raised. The intention was to assist businesses which needed to open later than 4pm as currently parking was from 4pm until 8am. He reported that the impact of the MD parking zone implementation would be reviewed.

Councillor Boshier, Spokesperson, raised questions on what had driven the timings and whether other businesses would seek similar variations. Councillor Stagg was aware of the problems experienced by customers needing to park near to the Cat Clinic to safely transport their pets, although the parking bay is not designated to this business. Kevin McKee responded that the impact on businesses would be assessed.

DECISIONS:

- 1. The operating time of the limited waiting bay be extended as proposed, and its operation is considered as part of the review that is to take place within 6 months of the MD zone commencing;**
- 2. The remaining proposals under TRO 87/2019 be implemented as advertised.**

33. Blue Badge Scheme - extension of eligibility (AI 6)

Denise Bastow, Parking Office Manager, presented the Director of Regeneration's report, accompanied by Karen Wigley, Professional Lead for Occupational Therapy in Adult Social Care. The report set out how the national scheme will be implemented and the assessment and appeal processes. The assessment for hidden disability is different to that for walking disability, with a new application and assessment form design with the assistance of Adult Social Care.

Councillor Boshier, Opposition Spokesperson, supported the proposals and asked that samples of the application form and information about the assessment and appeal process could be sent to all councillors as they could

be approached by constituents with queries. Denise Bastow explained that the 2 ways to apply were either via the national website (which directs the customer to the appropriate region) or via the PCC Parking Section. The assessment was based on the impact of a person's condition when they are travelling and how a blue badge would make a difference; Karen Wigley stressed that it is the impact that it will make that is considered, with some people always having travelling companions or having coping strategies.

Councillor Stagg asked how many applications had already been received? It was reported that there had been 99 applications in the first 4 weeks and assessments had started, so far 30% of these had been approved, 50% refused and in 20% of cases more information had been requested. She was also updated on the relationship to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) points system and criteria.

DECISIONS:

- 1. It was noted, that following the national government decision, the extension of the Blue Badge scheme will include consideration of applicants with hidden and non-physical disabilities;**
- 2. The decision making process as detailed in Sections 3.9 to 3.12 in this report was confirmed;**
- 3. Appeals against decisions to not issue a Blue Badge continue will be determined by the Parking Office Manager and the Professional Lead for Occupational Therapy as described in paragraph 3.13 of the report.**

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.

Councillor Lynne Stagg
Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation