

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date of meeting: 18 July 2017
By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title: Council Order for The East Sussex Permit Scheme.
Purpose: To comply with recent amendments made by the South East Permit Scheme (SEPS), it is necessary to revise the Council Order to continue to operate our current Permit Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to approve the authorisation of a Council Order to be made in response to recent amendments to the East Sussex Permit Scheme.

1 Background Information

1.1. The Traffic Management Act 2004 empowered Highway Authorities to operate a Permit Scheme, whereby all public utilities and statutory undertakers had to secure a permit before working in the public highway.

1.2. East Sussex County Council secured approval from the Secretary of State in July 2013 for a Permit Scheme, which began operation in November 2013. A Council Order was created in July 2015 in response to the DfT deregulating permit schemes ((Deregulation Act 2015) and making amendments for the purposes of clarity and uniformity for utility companies.

1.3. Since this time the current scheme has continued to operate successfully, improving planning by utility companies and their execution of necessary works in our highways, leading to reduced congestion.

1.4 East Sussex County Council also remains an active participant of the South East Permit Scheme (SEPS).

1.5 In 2016 the SEPS management steering group identified the need for greater control of utility works on minor roads. In order to gain that greater control the principle of charging was introduced enabling more stringent conditions to be placed on minor roads, such as residential streets.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 In accordance with Regulation 5 (Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007) SEPS carried out formal consultation with stakeholders during 2016, which concluded no objections to the proposals.

2.2 This option to charge on minor roads requires the County Council's current permit scheme to be amended and a Council Order re-issued if it is to continue to operate in parity with other SEPS members in the South East.

2.3 The amended Council Order and East Sussex Permit Scheme have been drafted and are included in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Lead Member is recommended to approve the amended Permit Scheme (attached in Appendix 2) and authorise the re-issuing of the full scheme documentation and Council Order if it is to continue to operate alongside SEPS members in the South East.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS:

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

LTME 14 September 2015 - Council Order for the East Sussex Permit Scheme