

Committee(s) Planning and Transportation Committee	Date(s): 5 January 2021
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Gemma Stokley, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk since the last formal meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and (b).

Recommendation:

- That Members note the report.

Main Report

1. Since the last formal meeting of the Committee, approval was given by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, for the following decisions to be made under Standing Order Nos 41(a) and (b).:

Urgency Authority – Concessionary Parking for frontline NHS & other Key Care Workers, and City Police during period of Tier 3 Restrictions in London [16 December 2020]

2. During the first national lockdown, on 23 March 2020, parking concessions for key workers were put in place in the City. The concessions were limited to those providing essential public front line services such as those working in the NHS and police.
3. A robust assessment process was put in place from the commencement of lockdown and concessions continued, with the approval of the Town Clerk and Members of the Planning and Transportation Committee, until 31 August 2020. The approach taken by the City was broadly in line with that adopted by other local authorities and took into account advice provided by Government and London Councils. The same concessions were granted once again during the second national lockdown on 5 November 2020 and those came to an end on 2 December 2020.
4. Consideration was then given to providing free parking in the car parks for frontline NHS and care workers e.g. those at Barts Hospital as London moves into Tier 3 restrictions. In addition, City Police requested a continuation of their parking concession beyond 1 January 2021. This was supported by both the Bronze & Silver officer emergency command groups, subject to Members' approval.

5. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee, therefore agreed that free parking in DBE car parks be provided for frontline NHS staff and care workers, and that the current concession for City Police is extended beyond 1 January 2021 whilst London is subject to Tier 3 restrictions. Barts Hospital is likely to require 105 free season tickets (at an estimated cost of £9,000 at residential rate). This need is based on the vulnerability of patients with immune deficiency such as cancer patients, and accordingly staff are advised to avoid public transport wherever possible to minimise the risk of cross infection. City Police parking is required to facilitate shift working for officers as public transport isn't running to a normal time-table, and heightened activity due to protests in London and non-compliance with COVID 19 social distancing requirements are expected.
6. There is sufficient capacity within the car parks but because of the possibility that parking space within Smithfield car park may be limited in the weeks leading up to Christmas (due to an increased number of customers), it is suggested that this concession also extends to other DBE car parks such as London Wall and Minories.
7. This decision required urgent approval so that season tickets could be processed and issued by 16 December 2020 in order to be in place at the commencement of Tier 3 restrictions in London.

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