

Infrastructure and Development Select Committee
Wednesday 17 January 2024
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 5	Public Question Time
	None received
Agenda item 6	Local Member Issues/Questions
6.1	<p>Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton Parking permits for carers are currently available from Councils across England, Wales and Scotland. The most well-known scheme run by Devon County Council has been running for over 10 years. With the Norfolk Parking Partnership increasing parking enforcement across Norfolk, carers face more issues in parking safely, close to the residents they are looking after and a higher possibility of being fined. Will the Infrastructure and Development Committee support a proper piece of work to explore if there is demand for carer parking permits across Norfolk through public consultation, establish the financial implications of bringing in such a scheme and consider the outcome of this work at a future meeting?</p> <p>Response from the Chair I am sorry to hear of the issues some carers experienced whilst carrying out this extremely valued service within the community. It is acknowledged that parking can add to the pressure when trying to deliver this important service to vulnerable clients, but I trust that the following helps to explain the current position with regard to parking on the highway and alternative measures that can be adopted.</p> <p>The County Council is sympathetic to the request to provide permits for carers, but there are usually alternative arrangements to enable parking near to client addresses. We understand the majority of carers park legally in restricted areas using systems already in place to do this, including using visitors permits in residential parking areas.</p> <p>With regard to the Devon scheme, this was borne out of Devon County Council's (DCC) covid response and a large number of carers working in the Dartmouth area (then Exeter), which has a high property density and large number of residents parking zones. During the pandemic, DCC explored parking concessions and established an initial demand of around 2,000-3,000, which included doctors, social workers, nurses and carers. This number has now grown to approximately 10,000 permits.</p> <p>In terms of car parking, paid carers from domiciliary care services are expected to fund car parking, but in most cases seek to have this re-imbursed through travel claims via their employer.</p> <p>Due to the reimbursement option highlighted above and also the cost of both establishing and operating a scheme, there are no current plans to introduce such a scheme in Norfolk.</p>