

Appendix H: Comments from the Audit and Governance Committee

Comment from Committee	Reasons from the Committee	Executive Member/Officer Comment	Recommended Action
Could the increased cost of the RPZ permit be phased in over a number of years?	To mitigate the impact on residents facing increased utility bills and a national insurance rise.	The objective is to recoup the full cost for providing the RPZ schemes in line with our updated Fees & Charges Policy, so a phased increase in the fee means that the schemes continue to be subsidised from Council Tax for a period albeit to a lesser degree, and the equivalent saving would need to be found elsewhere within our services budgets.	In order that the council can balance the budget it is proposed to recommend to council the charge increase as set out in the budget proposals.

Comment from Committee	Reasons from the Committee	Executive Member/Officer Comment	Recommended Action
<p>Could the permit system be made entirely paperless?</p>	<p>To reduce costs that are recovered in the permit price.</p>	<p>Permits are largely electronic but there are a “hard core” of residents that insist on paper permits and vouchers. It is not currently policy to insist on applications being entirely electronic and resulting permits being electronic. This is anticipated to be implemented as part of the Transforming East Herts Programme</p>	<p>Will be implemented as part of the Transforming East Herts Programme but will mean a digital by default approach and the end of paper permits and vouchers.</p>

Comment from Committee	Reasons from the Committee	Executive Member/Officer Comment	Recommended Action
<p>Could the hours of enforcement be reduced to reduce costs?</p>	<p>To reduce costs that are recovered in the permit price</p>	<p>The current set up of the RPZs and the enforcement contract means this is not possible. At contract changeover we could consider a light touch approach which would be resident's parking only between 10.30 and 11.30 and 14.30 and 15.30 but this may not suit residents who may find there is no parking available when they return home outside the controlled hours. Residents who have purchased permits will want the reassurance that the zones are being adequately patrolled.</p>	<p>Will be considered as part of the new parking enforcement contract but residents who have an all-day enforcement regime currently are unlikely to support very light touch enforcement for 2 hours of the day.</p>
<p>Could permit costs be different depending on the size of the car or the emissions.</p>	<p>To reduce costs that are recovered in the permit price for smaller, less polluting cars and to promote use of EVs.</p>	<p>The necessary work to explore this scheme cannot be done in time for this budget.</p>	<p>This will be considered as a measure to meet our aspiration of net zero by 2030 for future budgets.</p>