

London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee

London Councils Officer Response to the Government call for Evidence on Parking Reforms Item No: 22

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Date: 18 June 2015
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Summary: This report advises members of the London Councils officer response to the Department for Communities and Local Government discussion paper and call for evidence titled: Parking reform, tackling unfair practices.

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to:

- Endorse the London Councils officer response

Background

1. In March 2015 the responsibility for policy relating to off-street parking transferred from the Department of Transport (DfT), to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This change reflected the Coalition Governments belief that issues relating to off-street parking had an impact on communities, town centres and high streets, and with DCLG's responsibility for planning.
2. The Coalition Government introduced a number of measures relating to the management of parking including the introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Act in 2012, which banned clamping and removals on private land; introduced keeper liability and the provision of an industry run appeals mechanism; and the requirement that companies requesting data from the DVLA were members of an accredited trade association. More recently measures were introduced in April 2015 following a significant period of consultation which curtailed the use of CCTV for all but a handful of parking contraventions; introduced new grace periods; and clarified the existing rights to challenge and review parking policies.
3. The DCLG have stated that the transfer of policy provision for off street parking has provided them with an opportunity to review whether there is more that Government should do in this area.

Discussion Paper

4. In March 2015 the DCLG launched a discussion paper and a call for evidence on what it perceives could be continued unfair practices within the off-street parking sector, and parking in general. The discussion paper asked nine questions. The closing date for responses was 27 May 2015.
5. A copy of the Discussion Paper can be seen in Appendix 1
6. London Councils forwarded details of the discussion paper to all London boroughs on 24 April 2015, stating that we would be responding, and asked for comments from boroughs by 15 May 2015 so that we could formulate a detailed London-wide response.

London Councils Response

7. London Councils only received response details from Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Other boroughs may have responded directly.
8. The DCLG required all responses by 27 May 2015, which meant that London Councils were unable to present a version to TEC for approval prior to the closing date. On that basis we submitted an officer response that had been approved at Director level. DCLG were informed of this.
9. Details of London Councils response can be seen in Appendix 2.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Legal Implications

11. There are no legal implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

12. There are no equalities implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Recommendations

13. The Committee is asked to:
 - Endorse the London Councils officer response