

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Executive Director Neighbourhoods & Environment

to  
Cabinet

on  
16 June 2020

Agenda  
Item No.

Report prepared by Larissa Reed

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## Temporary Key Workers Permit

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Place Scrutiny**  
**Executive Councillor: Councillor Ron Woodley**  
**Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)**

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek agreement for the continuation of the key worker permit until 18 August 2020 (or until the Government guidelines change)

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet endorses the action taken to date and agrees to the continuation of the key worker permit to 18 August 2020 (or when the Government guidelines change) for NHS workers, care workers and volunteers working on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in line with the national guidance (issued 3 April 2020)**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic represents the biggest challenge to human health and wellbeing in decades. It has had and will continue to have a significant impact of the day to day life of everyone in the world.
- 3.2 Throughout the pandemic, many key workers and volunteers have played an essential role in providing health, social care and other key services to many vulnerable people.
- 3.3 On 3 April 2020. Government issued Coronavirus (Covid-19) Health, care and volunteer workers parking pass and concessions guidance. This gave free parking for those on duty as an NHS staff member, health or social care worker, or NHS Volunteer Responder. This is to enable them to access parking concessions in local authority-owned off-street car parks and on-street bays

during the COVID-19 emergency response period. The council did not advertise this scheme immediately as it had agreed to suspend parking enforcement.

- 3.4 On 11 May 2020 the government issued guidelines for people returning to work, which suggested that people returning to work avoid public transport. This change coincided with the council looking to restart parking enforcement.
- 3.5 Accordingly, the council implemented the Health, care and volunteer workers parking pass in Southend which also included key workers (as set out in the government guidance (19 March 2020)).
- 3.6 The permit is a virtual permit and officers ensured the application process was simple but robust enough to discourage abuse or fraud.
- 3.7 The Executive Director Neighbourhoods and Environment consulted internally and with the relevant cabinet members and introduced the scheme.
- 3.8 Following the review of the scheme, research into changes in other authorities and discussion with the cabinet member, it was agreed to change the eligibility criteria from 1 June 2020 to remove the additional key workers and bring the eligibility in line with the government parking guidelines (3 April 2020) for new applicants. Existing pass holders will retain their pass until 18 August 2020
- 3.9 As we have been unable to quantify the number of Key Workers who would have used parking capacity before COVID-19, and how frequently, we have had to make an assumption that each permit holder would make use of it for x5 full days per week. In practice, this is likely to be considerably lower.
- 3.10 The current scheme that is in place means that all permits issued will expire on the 18 August 2020 and yet no decision to extend this has been made.
- 3.11 Once beyond the emergency response and recovery phase, we intend to review the overall impact of COVID-19 on the parking service and will of course feed this back to Elected Representatives.
- 3.12 Accordingly the recommendation about is that the cabinet endorses the action taken to date and agrees to the continuation of the key worker permit to 18 August 2020 (or when the Government guidelines change) for NHS workers, care workers and volunteers working on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in line with the national guidance (issued 3 April 2020)

#### **4. Other Options**

4.1 **Alternative Option 1.** The council stops the temporary Key Worker permit

4.2 Alternative Option 1 has not been recommended for the following reasons:

4.2.1 This would go against the government guidelines and could put essential NHS and care workers at a disadvantage

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 To continue with the key worker permit using the 3 April guidelines, the council will be able to ensure that essential workers are supported through this unprecedented time.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

### 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

6.1.1 Pride and Joy. "Our Streets and Public Spaces are clean and inviting."

6.1.2 Our parks and green spaces are well used the town's residents and visitors. Maintaining green spaces within the communities across the borough helps support the provision of clean and inviting town.

6.1.3 Safe and Well. – This ensures that essential workers are able to continue their work whilst the government recommends that they do not use public transport

### 6.2 Financial Implications

6.2.1 There is a financial impact of approximately £300,000 for this piece of work, the funding for this will be considered as part of the overall parking recovery strategy is currently being drafted.

### 6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 The council is able to provide the temporary key worker permits.

### 6.4 People Implications

6.4.1 No people implications have been identified at this time.

### 6.5 Property Implications

6.5.1 There are no property implications

### 6.6 Consultation

6.6.1 No public consultation has been undertaken, other than with cabinet members.

### 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity Issues

### 6.8 Risk Assessment

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
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Loss of parking income	This will be considered as part of a wider parking recovery strategy.
Negative impact on 'green city and air quality due to the increase in car movements	This permit is only being issued to residents who are working in key areas, therefore limiting this risk.

## 6.9 Value for Money

6.9.1 No issues identified at this time

## 6.10 Community Safety Implications

6.10.1 No community safety implications have been identified at this time.

## 6.11 Environmental Impact

6.11.1 There is a negative environmental impact of enabling more cars on the road, however by limiting this permit to essential workers, this will be limited.

## 7. Background Papers

7.1 There are no background papers.

## 8. Appendices

8.1 There are no Appendices