

North Yorkshire County Council**County Council****18 November 2020****The Report of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Notice of Motion on NHS parking****1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To provide County Council with a summary of the deliberations of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee concerning the Notice of Motion on NHS parking that was referred to the committee from the meeting of the County Council on 22 July 2020.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The following Notice of Motion was discussed at the County Council meeting held on 22 July 2020:

NHS Parking

“That this council makes known to all NHS Hospital Trusts in North Yorkshire that this council supports and encourages free on-site parking for NHS staff at their workplaces.”

Proposed by County Councillor Geoff Webber
Seconded by County Councillor David Goode

- 2.2 The following amendment was then proposed by County Councillor Richard Cooper and seconded by County Councillor Zoe Metcalfe.

“That this council makes known to all NHS Hospital Trusts in North Yorkshire that this council supports and encourages measures which enable their staff to travel to and from work sustainably in accordance with carbon reduction and sustainable travel commitments. The council invites them to consider how parking policy and grants for using sustainable travel options for NHS staff at their workplaces can best achieve this alongside the understandable wish for NHS staff to be recognised for the work they do.”

- 2.3 The following second amendment was then proposed by County Councillor Liz Colling and seconded by County Councillor Eric Broadbent.

“That this council makes known to all NHS Hospital Trusts in North Yorkshire that this council supports and encourages free on-site parking for NHS staff at their work place. We invite them to consider how parking policy and grants for using sustainable travel options for NHS staff can best achieve a long-term aim for carbon reduction and sustainable travel across our County”

2.4 The Chairman, Cllr Jim Clark, chose to refer the matter to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3.0 Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.1 An informal meeting of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 19 August 2020 to discuss the motion and subsequent amendments. The purpose of the meeting was to establish if a general agreement could be reached on the wording of the motion and then make a recommendation to the meeting of the full committee on 22 October 2020.

3.2 The outcome of the informal meeting was that County Councillors Geoff Webber and David Goode agreed to support the second amendment proposed by County Councillor Liz Colling and seconded by County Councillor Eric Broadbent.

3.3 The proposers of the first and second amendments were not able to attend the meeting. However, the proposer of the first amendment, County Councillor Richard Cooper, subsequently expressed concerns that the original motion would provide free parking for non-frontline NHS staff. This would serve to encourage greater car use and so increase carbon exhaust emissions.

3.4 The revised wording agreed by the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee on 22 October 2020 takes into account these concerns, whilst not losing sight of the rationale of the motion, which was at a time that NHS staff are risking their health and possibly their lives to save other people's lives from COVID-19, they should not have to pay to park at work. Driving to work at the present time in their own car rather than using public transport is safer for NHS staff to do so and ultimately for their patients, rather than using public transport.

3.5 At the committee meeting held on 22 October 2020, a member suggested that the wording should also call upon the NHS to deal with the problem of NHS staff parking on residential roads near to hospitals. However, this was not agreed by the committee as the view was expressed that this would be counterproductive to what the motion was trying to achieve in terms of it making it easier for NHS frontline staff to be able to park close to their place of work. The County Council also already has a residents parking scheme policy in place, allowing such schemes to be introduced under certain conditions.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee recommends the County Council approves the following wording as the agreed amendment to the NHS Parking Motion:

“That this council makes known to all NHS Hospital Trusts in North Yorkshire that this council supports and encourages free on-site parking for frontline NHS staff at their work place for the duration that covid-19 places a strain on the NHS. We also invite them to consider how parking policy and grants for using sustainable travel options for NHS staff can best achieve a long-term aim for carbon reduction and sustainable travel across our County.”

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

Report Authors:

Jonathan Spencer, Legal and Democratic Services
Daniel Harry, Legal and Democratic Services.

9 November 2020.