

FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS – 9th November 2021

Golden Motion: A Workplace Parking Levy for Bristol

Full Council notes

1. A Workplace Parking Levy (also referred to as Corporate Parking Levy) is a licensing scheme for active workplace car parking places. They vary in detail and can include various concessions (e.g. blue badge holders; smaller businesses; NHS facilities). These schemes reduce driving into the city centre, by imposing a tax on businesses which can be passed on to its employees, and provide funds that can be reinvested in transport alternatives or improvements.
2. That the proposal for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) was initially discussed in Bristol ten years ago ~~and we have fallen behind other cities in its implementation.~~
3. A scoping study produced for Bristol Council in 2011 estimated that a citywide workplace Parking Levy (with small businesses exempted) could generate a net revenue of around £11 million per year, so a new scoping study would be needed before consultation and possible implementation-
4. The effect the incoming Clean Air Zone will have on city centre traffic and that a new study on predicted income raised from a WPL will need to be undertaken to take this into account.
~~3.~~
- 4.5. Following a budget amendment made by the Green Party in 2020, an appraisal report is now being developed. We further note that as it has yet to be published, it is unclear as to the detail of implementation. We understand that the report's findings are generally in favour of WPL.
5. The growing national base of evidence for WPL. Most notable is Nottingham which has been running its scheme since 2011 and now raises £9 million a year with a circa £400 WPL with minimal running costs
6. Nottingham is the only city to have introduced a WPL and did so ten years ago. Since 2011, Policy proposals for improving congestion and air quality in cities have moved on to other interventions, such as Clean Air Zones.
7.
- 6-8. Support for exploring a WPL was noted in the Bristol Transport Strategy adopted in 2019.
- 7-9. There are several, evidenced benefits of WPLs, including:
 - Reduction in congestion and associated air quality improvements;
 - Investment in public and active transport;
 - Freeing up land - unlike a congestion charge, the WPL has an evidenced bonus effect of making more land available for other uses, such as green space or new residential buildings.
 - That any levy is easy to administer, keeping transactional costs to a minimum
 - They encourage private sector involvement and investment in the city
 - There is unlikely to be any additional pressure on on-street parking as the levy is on the space not the vehicle

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10. Councillors will need to see the detail, but it is anticipated that the coming report will add to the positive national evidence base for the policy. Provide more detailed information for Full Council's consideration at a later date.

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11. A WPL would be imposed on organisations with car parking spaces, it could include schools, care homes, and colleges and would create extra costs which they may choose to pass on to others.

12. The imposition of a new tax on the citizens and businesses of Bristol needs to be given due consideration and treated with gravitas, and that agreeing to a new tax without knowing how much it would raise nor what the potential benefits of it would be negligent on the part of Bristol City Council.

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Full Council resolves to call on the administration to:

1. Share and make the appraisal report on WPL public when it is complete
2. ~~Formally commit to a WPL scheme for Bristol (pending the report's findings)~~
3. ~~To report back to Full Council on the report's findings and, if the administration sees fit, to publish a delivery timetable. To publish a timetabled delivery plan for a WPL scheme with the aim of going out to consultation by April 2022 with full implementation within two years of that date (compatible with the Local Transport Act 2000)~~
4. 4. Approach Government to ensure as much match funding as possible, if decided a WPL is in Bristol's interests
5. ~~Work with WECA to see if a WPL can be developed in parallel in other neighbouring authorities~~
5. Write to WECA authorities to gauge their interests in developing their own WPL schemes

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Motion proposed by: Councillor Wilcox (Green Group)

Date Submitted: 28th October 2021

Notes

- Bristol Transport Strategy - <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/3641895/Bristol+Transport+Strategy+-+adopted+2019.pdf/383a996e-2219-dbbb-dc75-3a270bfce26c>
- Information on Nottingham's Workplace Parking Levy:
 - o <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/wpl>
 - o <https://www.transportxtra.com/publications/parking-review/news/68005/the-workplace-parking-levy-nottingham-pioneers-the-way-ahead/>