

Treasury and Exchequer Ministerial Decision Report

Eco-Permit Scheme – Expiry Date

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve changes to charges under the Eco-Permit Scheme, as proposed by the Minister for Infrastructure, in particular the inclusion of an expiry date.

2. Background

The original Eco-Permit parking scheme was launched in 2008, allowing cars with low carbon emissions to take advantage of half price Paycard parking. There have since been a number of changes which reduced the maximum emission levels following trends within the motor industry to produce more efficient engines.

The 'Parking Places) (Jersey) Order 2006' which set out prescribed parking and season ticket charges, provides the legal basis for the Eco-Permit Scheme.

The cost of the scheme (with regards to lost parking fee revenue) is incurred by the Car Park Trading Fund (CPTF). This fund is intended to cover operational and capital costs associated with the provision of public parking.

Following engagement with Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance and the Minister for Environment it has been agreed that the Eco-Permit Scheme and its benefits will in all likelihood be terminated at end of 2024 (i.e., Midnight 31st December) without alternative funding arrangements being found.

While the decision to extend the Eco-Permit scheme has in practice been taken on a year-by-year basis since its advent in 2008, nevertheless the 'Road Traffic (Public Parking Places) (Jersey) Order 2006' was not originally drafted on this basis and currently does not include an expiry date to the scheme or its benefits.

The Minister for Infrastructure is proposing to amend the 'Road Traffic (Public Parking Places) (Jersey) Order 2006' to include an expiry date (31st December 2024) such that while eligibility criteria for the permit will remain unchanged. In the eventuality that it is decided to extend the scheme beyond 2024 into 2025 this date would then be amended.

This decision is in effect the ending of the previous subsidy for eligible vehicles. However, the form of the subsidy (as a separate charge in the order) means that it could be interpreted as an increase to the rate charged for those vehicles. This decision ensures that the requirement of the Public Finances Manual that increases above 2.5% require the explicit approval of the Minister for Treasury and Resources is met.

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to approve the changes to charges under the Eco-Permit Scheme, as proposed by the Minister for Infrastructure, in particular the inclusion of an expiry date.

4. Reasons for Decision

To meet the requirements of the Public Finances Manual that increases above 2.5% require the explicit approval of the Minister for Treasury and Resources in order to comply with the Anti-Inflation Strategy.

5. Resource Implications

Additional income may accrue to the Jersey Car Parking Trading Fund from 2025 if the scheme is not renewed.

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