

Briefing 4th March 2013.

Joining LoPS will allow Havering to exercise greater control over the road works taking place on our roads, helping to reduce the congestion and frustration caused by road works. This will, in turn, deliver benefits for the economy, the environment, and help to make everybody's journeys a little less stressful.

The London Mayor is keen for all London Boroughs to join LoPS and to date, 26 London Boroughs, TfL and the City of London have joined the scheme. Evaluation of the first year of LoPS indicates that a number of benefits have been realised by boroughs moving to the permitting system, such as:

- Reduced disruption on the roads covered by the permit scheme
- Less customer complaints about road works
- Better dialogue with the companies planning road works and more information being given about planned works.
- Improved co-ordination of works
- A reduction in the number of road works cancelled after the Borough's been informed about them (and they've been fitted into the co-ordination plan)
- Improved compliance with highways legislation by the companies undertaking road works.

The earlier adopters of LoPS have not faced any challenges or significant difficulties in running the scheme and the process for adopting LoPS is now very straightforward and clearly established.

It is a requirement that permit fees are set at a level which ensures that implementing the scheme is cost neutral to the local authority. The process for considering permit applications is more stringent than the current noticing system, which means that more officer time is needed to consider each application to dig up roads. A standard process is used to predict the additional resource requirements placed on any local authority entering LoPS by considering the historic numbers of road works in the borough. This process also establishes the fees that the borough should be charging for different types of road works. These figures are set out at the back of the Cabinet Report.

There is no impact on other "revenue sources", such as the s74 charges incurred when road works over run.

Across London, the authorities participating in LoPS have experienced a 10% reduction in the number of road works being undertaken by utilities companies as a result of adopting LoPS. It's also estimated that the scheme saved £2.7 million in congestion costs as a result of better collaboration and more joint working, that wouldn't have occurred without LoPS