

Chichester District Council

CABINET

9 February 2016

Car Parking Charges - Response to Consultation

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the charges set out within the Appendix, together with those considered by Cabinet at their meeting in October 2015, be implemented from 1 April 2016.**
- 2.2. That the Head of Commercial Services be authorised to give appropriate notice of any revised charges pursuant to the Off-street Parking Places (Consolidation) Order 2015 and the Road Traffic Act 1984.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Cabinet will recall that in October 2015 a number of proposals for parking charges to come into effect from 1 April 2016 were considered. These proposals have now been formally advertised and consulted on.
- 3.2. The only response is from Midhurst Town Council where they state 'Midhurst Town Council has already submitted comments on the proposals. However, it does not seem that our comments have been taken into consideration despite your Statement of Reasons making reference to "the needs of local commerce" and to changes being "reflective of feedback from customers".'
- 3.3. The comments received from Midhurst Town Council and which were considered by the Cabinet at their meeting in October 2015 are: 'Midhurst Town Council objects to the reduction in the free period of parking in North Street and Post Office car parks, as the two hours free parking is important for the economy of the town. We therefore request that representation be made to retain the two hours free parking in all three Midhurst car parks.'
- 3.4. This was considered and debated by Cabinet, Parking Forum and with businesses, along with a discussion led by the Member for Midhurst. Cabinet and the Forum considered that the proposed charges (see

Appendix) were modest and appropriate and would not impact on the viability of the town or cause significant deflection.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. To ensure Chichester District parking charges remain competitive with neighbouring centres leaving our business centres in a strong position and do not cause unacceptable parking deflection into residential areas.
- 4.2. The increases proposed are considered modest and competitive when compared with other neighbouring towns in adjoining authorities.
- 4.3. The proposed charges assist with delivering on the objectives of both assisting with capacity issues in the higher demand car parks (i.e. The Post Office and North Street car parks) and helping to cover administration and maintenance costs of each car park.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. The proposed charges as set out within the Appendix, together with those approved by Cabinet for consultation at their meeting in October 2015, are approved for adoption with effect from 1 April 2016 and that appropriate amendments to the Parking Order are made.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.1 A series of options were considered by the Parking Forum and these are detailed in the notes from the Parking Forum meetings in July and September 2015. In addition, Cabinet considered the options in October 2015 and recommended that the proposed charges should be publicly advertised and consulted on.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. It is anticipated that the proposed charges should not only assist with covering some of the costs of running the car parks in Midhurst, but will also assist with capacity issues which are evident at times in the Midhurst car parks, (North Street and Post Office car parks).
- 7.2. There will be minor costs associated with new signage and effecting adjustments to the machine tariffs as well as changes to back office software; these costs are contained within the service's revenue budget.
- 7.3. The Parking Order will require amendment once the charges are agreed.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The proposed changes to parking charges have been publicised generally including to all affected parishes in the rural areas, along with ward members for these areas, who have been invited to make comments on the proposals. The only feedback was received from Midhurst Town Council - the detail of which is set out in paragraph 3 above.

8.2 The issue received as feedback from Midhurst Town Council has been considered by the Parking Forum, discussed at Cabinet and debated at a meeting with businesses in Midhurst. The Member for Midhurst has also considered and spoken on this issue. It is considered that this issue has been considered and that the concerns of Midhurst Town Council have been taken into account – with the agreement to retain the two hours' free parking in The Grange and to retain free parking for the first hour in Post Office and North Street.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1. Any increase in charges could cause people to park within neighbouring residential areas and reduce the economic effectiveness of the localities they serve. The modest nature of the increases is designed to minimise this risk.

10. Other Implications

Crime & Disorder:	None
Climate Change:	None
Human Rights and Equality Impact: Whilst there is no legislative requirement to provide designated disabled bays free of charge, this has been the case within the district for a number of years.	None
Safeguarding and Early Help:	None

11. Appendix

Appendix: Review of Parking Charges 2016-17 – Detail of Proposal for Midhurst

12. Background Papers

13.1 None.