

# Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

1 November 2016

## Off-Street Parking Charges

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Executive Summary

This report reviews the parking charges in the Council's off-street car parks in accordance with parking policy. The report makes proposals for parking charges to be implemented from 1 April 2017 for the purposes of consultation. No changes are proposed to hourly rates.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1. **That the charges set out within the appendix to the report approved and, subject to consultation responses, be implemented from 1 April 2017.**
- 3.2. **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.**

### 4. Background

- 4.1. Income generated by car parking charges is regularly reviewed. In accordance with the Review of Fees and Charges report (May 2013 Cabinet), all service managers are tasked with identifying new potential sources of income from fees & charges.
- 4.2. Cabinet will recall that a number of increases in charges were approved and came into effect on 1 April 2016. They covered both rural and city car parks, with an increase in the cost of season tickets in the city and rural car parks. Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 that the hourly charges be frozen until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- 4.3. Car park users expect charges to be reasonable and proportionate. The Council needs to generate enough income from car parking to cover its

costs and to allow for future investment. Car parks occupy valuable sites and charges need to reflect this aspect. If they are not serving their purpose effectively, or their usage could be consolidated, there may be another economically beneficial use to which a site could be put.

- 4.4 Chichester District's Car Park Strategy 2010-20 reflects the need to maximise the capacity of the existing stock. One method of doing so is to ensure that charges are set at a level which encourages turnover of use in higher demand areas.

## **5. Outcomes to be Achieved**

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. The changes proposed are considered modest and competitive when compared with other neighbouring authorities.
- 5.3. The proposed charges assist with delivering the objectives of both assisting with capacity issues in the higher demand car parks and helping to cover administration and maintenance costs of each car park.

## **6. Proposal**

- 6.1. The proposed charges as set out within Appendix 1 are recommended for approval for the purposes of consultation. Subject to the outcome of the consultation they are to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2017.

## **7. Alternatives Considered**

- 7.1 A series of options were considered by the Parking Forum and these are fully detailed in the minutes from the Parking Forum. Alternative options considered by the Parking Forum included:

7.1.1 an option for proposal 2 to increase the price of a specific season ticket to £100 per month, which would have an estimated increase in income of £100,000 per annum.

7.1.2 an option for proposal 3 to set the price of a season ticket for Rural car parks to £15.00 per month for all rural car parks, which would have generated an estimated increase in income of £9,000 per annum.

Both alternatives were discounted following debate and are not recommended.

- 7.2 Do nothing – however this would not assist with covering the costs of the provision of the car parks service.

## 8. Resource and Legal Implications

- 8.1. If approved, the proposed charges will raise an additional gross income estimated at £159,000 per annum. Once VAT is taken into consideration this figure reduces to £127,200 per annum.
- 8.2. There will be minor costs associated with the provision of new signs and necessary adjustments to the machine tariffs as well as changes to back office software; these costs are contained within the service's revenue budget. In addition there may be costs associated with additional enforcement.
- 8.3. The Parking Order will require amendment once the charges are agreed.

## 9. Consultation

- 9.1. The proposed changes to parking charges are supported by the Parking Forum meeting of 6 September 2016 and were considered by Commercial Board on 13 June 2016.
- 9.2. Amendment to the Parking Order will include a further period of consultation.
- 9.3. Initial consultation has been undertaken with some organisations that are local to the car parks under consideration for the extension of the parking charges into the evening. Cabinet will be given an oral update on the feedback received.

## 10. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 10.1. 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 and other mitigation proposed is designed to minimise this risk.

## 11. Other Implications

<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	None
<b>Climate Change</b>	None
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b> 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
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>	None
<b>Other</b> Such investments as may be made shall be done so ethically in a manner that is consistent with other Council policies, values and practices, and does not inadvertently result in promoting, supporting	None

or delivering outcomes that the Council would not wish to occur.	
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## **12. Appendices**

12.1 Review of Parking Charges 2016-17 – Details of Proposals

## **13. Background Papers**

13.1 None