

09 March 2017 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Despatched: 01.03.17







Cabinet


Membership:


Chairman, Cllr. Fleming; Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Lowe
Cllrs. Dickins, Firth, Hogarth, Piper and Scholey

Agenda

	Pages	Contact
Apologies for Absence		
1. Minutes To agree the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 February 2017, as a correct record.	(Pages 1 - 10)	
2. Declarations of interest Any interests not already registered.		
3. Questions from Members (maximum 15 minutes)		
4. Matters referred from Council, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet Advisory Committees (if any)		
5. Bank Account Signatories	(Pages 11 - 14)	Roy Parsons Tel: 01732 227204
6. Annual Review of Parking Charges 2017-18 - results of consultation	(Pages 15 - 68)	John Strachan Tel: 1732227310
		
REPORTS ALSO CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEES		
7. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) - Housing Provision	(Pages 69 - 74)	Hayley Brooks Tel: 01732 227272
8. Sevenoaks Leisure Centre - Application for a loan by Sencio Community Leisure	(Pages 77 - 94)	Lesley Bowles, Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732 227335/7153
		

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9. | Statement of principles for determining the amount of a Penalty Charge | (Pages 95 - 106) | James Cox
Tel: 01732227312 |
| 10. | Community Grant Scheme Draft Allocations 2017/18 | (Pages 107 - 138) | Simon Davies
Tel: 1732227374 |
| |  | | |
| 11. | Draft Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2017-18 | (Pages 139 - 174) | Kelly Webb
Tel: 1732227474 |
| |  | | |

 Indicates a Key Decision

 indicates a matter to be referred to Council

EXEMPT INFORMATION

At the time of preparing this agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public.

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227000 or democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2017 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Fleming (Chairman)

Cllr. Lowe (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Dickins, Firth, Hogarth, Piper and Scholey

Cllrs. Ball, Barnes, Mrs. Barnes, Canet, Eyre, Gaywood, Halford, Hogg, Horwood, Hunter, McGarvey, Morris, Parkin, Pett, Purves, Scott and Searles were also in attendance.

62. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 23 January 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

63. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

64. Questions from Members

There were none.

65. Matters referred from Council, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet Advisory Committees

There were none.

CHANGE IN AGENDA ITEM ORDER

With Cabinet's agreement, the Chairman advised he would take agenda items 6 and 7 first (Minutes 66 & 67) and would take item 8 last (Minute 68).

66. Green Belt Assessment

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report which provided an overview of the findings of the Green Belt Assessment (undertaken by Arup on behalf of the Council) which would help inform the production of the new Local Plan for the period 2015-35. He advised that the Planning Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

The Planning Policy Team Leader addressed the Cabinet on the item and took questions from a Member relating to the performance of the parcels of land

numbered 93 and 95. She confirmed that they were strongly performing. Cllrs Halford and Morris spoke on this item.

Members welcomed the report and that Green Belt sites were not likely to feature as options in the Local Plan consultation unless an 'exceptional circumstances' case could be made. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that 'exceptional circumstances' would not include the need to make up the numbers.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the findings of the Green Belt Assessment, be noted; and
- b) the further consideration of 'brownfield' sites in the Green Belt and then, if necessary, the limited number of land parcels/sub-areas identified in the Arup report, be supported.

67. Swanley and Hextable Master Vision

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report and provided an update on the Master Vision consultation agreed by the Planning Advisory Committee in July 2016 and Cabinet in August 2016. It set out how consultation was undertaken and provided a summary of the analysis of responses undertaken by the Council's consultants, both in terms of quantitative data taken from direct responses to the questions posed in the survey and more qualitative information taken from the range of comments and representations returned from the public and stakeholders. He further advised that a petition which had not been accepted as a valid petition to Council had been taken forward as a 'consultation response' and thereby was brought to the Committee's attention. Based on the consultation responses received, the report provided a recommendation for the next stages of progressing the Master Vision work, and discussed how the regeneration work for Swanley and Hextable could be taken forward and refined as an element within the Local Plan preparation. The report also outlined some of the detailed work needed to be commissioned if supported aspects of the Vision were to progress successfully.

He advised that the Planning Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet subject to removing the second clause of recommendation a). This motion was seconded by Cllr Scholey.

The Strategic Planning Manager spoke on the item and summarised the matters contained in his written report for the benefit of the Cabinet.

The Chairman had agreed to exercise his discretion and allow some members of the public and non members of the Committee to address the meeting.

The Cabinet was addressed by the following public speakers:

Mr Bob Alexander
Mr Robert Brickell
Mr Paul Darrington
Mr Michael Jenkins
Mr Martin Jordan
Mr Chris Prestedge
Mr Dan Wise
Mr Bob Wallis.

During the public speaking two documents were tabled with a view to being published. The Cabinet was addressed by the following non-Cabinet Member speakers:

Cllr Morris
Cllr Searles
Cllr Ball
Cllr Halford
Cllr Hogg
Cllr Mrs Barnes
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Scott
Cllr Horwood
Cllr McGarvey
Cllr Parkin
Cllr Gaywood.

Following discussion by Cabinet the motion was amended to include the second clause of recommendation a) with the use of the words 'consultation response' in place of the word 'petition'.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the public and stakeholder responses made to the Master Vision consultation and the observations made on the stakeholder response be noted, and the consultation response signed by 1,843 residents in opposition to the Master Vision acknowledged;
- b) the overall principle of regeneration and growth in Swanley and Hextable be supported;
- c) some elements of the Master Vision be addressed further within a Local Plan 'Issues and Options' consultation to be undertaken during 2017 with the exception of unsupported aspects, namely: facilitating new or improved Public/Town Council facilities and building a new hotel on the edge of the recreation ground; building any development on the

recreation ground; and the proposals to build 3000 houses, or any large development, on the pieces of strongly performing Green Belt and Grade 2 agricultural land at the back of Archer Way which separates the communities of Hextable, Swanley Village and Swanley;

- d) the undertaking of further studies be supported, to assess in more detail the following specific aspects:
- a development brief focussed on Swanley;
 - a full and comprehensive transport strategy plan to properly highlight how road infrastructure could be improved in the area to reduce congestion;
 - more detailed feasibility work related to the main elements of infrastructure; and
 - a financial assessment to refine the scale of development required to achieve a 'critical mass'.

68. Budget and Council Tax Setting 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report which was the final stage in the budget process that had seen significant Member involvement. He stated that if approved the net expenditure budget for 2017/18 would be £14.47m with the District's Council Tax increasing by 2.5% resulting in Band D Council Tax being £202.77. He was pleased to report that the Council was looking at having a fully-funded self-sufficient budget over the next ten years.

The Chief Finance Officer then presented the report which contained various appendices including budget amounts for all service areas, growth and savings items recommended as well as pay costs and a risk analysis.

With regard to the ten year budget, the major changes this year included a Council Tax increase of 2.5% in 2017/18 but remaining at 2% for later years; growth and savings items previously presented to Cabinet; Property Investment Strategy income updated to reflect the portfolio; and a reduced interest receipts assumption for the next 2 years.

The changes announced in the Provisional Local Government Settlement in December were said to have had no effect on the ten year budget due to the decision made last year to no longer use Revenue Support Grant or New Homes Bonus to fund the revenue budget. The Chief Finance Officer stated that this highlighted the benefits of being financially self-sufficient.

The settlement no longer included any Revenue Support Grant and also changed the basis for calculating New Homes Bonus so that lower amounts would be received in future. The final settlement was expected to be announced later in the month but no changes were expected that would affect the ten year budget.

Appendix I of the report contained a review of reserves which included the recommendation to transfer £1.7m into the Property Investment Strategy Reserve

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to ensure acquisitions were funded in the most efficient way and also to replace the reduced funding now expected from the New Homes Bonus.

Appendices K to N were not included in the report but would be included in the Council version after the other preceptors have set their Council Tax.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that

- a) the Summary of Council Expenditure and Council Tax for 2017/18 set out in Appendix E to the report, be approved;
- b) the 10-year budget 2017/18 to 2026/27 which is the guiding framework for the detailed approval of future years' budgets set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings proposals set out in Appendix C-D to the report be approved, and that where possible any variations during and between years be met from the Budget Stabilisation Reserve;
- c) the Capital Programme 2017/20 and funding method set out in Appendix H to the report, be approved;
- d) the changes to reserves and provisions set out in Appendix I to the report, be approved.

69. Environmental Health Partnership - charging for support advice to food businesses Introducing the "Access" Scheme

The Portfolio Holder for Direct & Trading presented the report which provided an overview of a new scheme for charging for support advice given to food business. The scheme was Accelerating Compliance and Economic Success (ACCESS) and would provide enhanced support for food businesses and tailored to suit each business. The minimum charge for a basic package of £100 plus VAT for 2 hours work with the ability to purchase additional time.

Food Safety Officers within the EH Commercial team would carry out the ACCESS Visits and a different office would do any rescore visits to avoid conflict of interest. Free information would be provided on the Council's website and via associated links.

He advised that the Direct & Trading Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) it be agreed for the Environmental Health Partnership charging for bespoke food safety advice for new businesses; and
- b) a minimum fee be charged of £100 plus VAT for 2 hours work, and £50 per hour thereafter, on a cost recovery basis.

70. Discretionary Rate Relief

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report and set out the proposals for awarding discretionary rate relief for 2017/18. Appendix B to the report, contained the details of each applicant to be considered for relief for 2017/18 and detailed recommendations of the level of relief to be applied.

He advised that the Finance Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

The Chief Finance Officer set out that Relief from Business Rates provides organisations with valuable support and contributed to the Council's commitment to supporting and developing the local economy. He set out that the categories of relief were Discretionary Rate Relief, Top up Relief and Rural Rate Relief. The criteria for each category was detailed in the report.

He reported that since the change to the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the relief awarded may not have a financial impact on the Council if the level of business rates received stayed under the safety net level.

All previous applicants had been contacted and reminders had been sent to those who had not replied. At the time of Cabinet six had not replied but if they did apply at a later date they would be considered individually by the Chief Finance Officer.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the proposals for granting relief from business rates for 2017/18 set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved.

71. Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 which set out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. An updated report had been circulated that day which included the figures missing from the original contained within the main printed agenda papers.

The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) and supporting regulations required the Council to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act therefore required the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy (as required by investment guidance issued subsequent to the Act). Some of the data was not available when the report in the main agenda pack was printed. An updated report with the data was provided in a supplementary agenda item circulated separately.

It was set out that legislation required the Council to prepare an Annual Treasury Management Strategy which set out the Council's policies for borrowing and managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

He advised that the Finance Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet. At the Finance Advisory Committee it was noted that the investment strategy remained the same as for 2016/17. A reassurance was given that the investment strategy was flexible enough to deal with interest rate changes that might occur during the year as a result of Brexit.

The Principal Accountant stated that the report formed part of the budget strategy for 2017/18 and dealt with the proposed treasury strategy for the forthcoming year. The first part of the report proposed various prudential indicators and a Minimum Revenue Provision policy to ensure that any capital expenditure plans were affordable. The latter part of the report dealt with the investment strategy for 2017/18 and laid out the criteria for making investments based largely around a creditworthiness assessment policy. It was proposed to leave the investment strategy unchanged from 2016/17.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18, be approved.

72. Capital Programme & Asset Maintenance 2017/20

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report which set out the proposed 2017/20 Capital Programme, with supporting documentation in a standard format for individual scheme bids. Projected capital receipts were included, indicating the proposed financing of the Programme. A proposed overall provision limit for Asset Maintenance was also made. The report set out the proposed capital programme for the next three years and gave details of the ways in which the projects could be funded.

He advised that the Finance Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

The Head of Finance set out that the report informed Members of the proposed capital programme for the next three years. Documents supporting the projects were included as Appendix A. Projected capital receipts, and proposals for financing the projects were also identified.

The following projects were proposed:

- Dunbrik Vehicle Wash Bay - £30,000.
- Vehicle Replacements from the Council's vehicle reserve - £548,000 in 2017/18.
- Disabled Facility Grants - now entirely funded by the Better Care Fund.
- Buckhurst 2 Multi storey with residential accommodation £9.850m which was approved at Council on 22 November 2016.

The proposed asset maintenance budget, which was based on 30% of the overall 10 year maintenance assessment, was included at paragraph 11 of the report. Members were asked to approve the capital scheme bids and funding proposals and also to agree the proposed Asset maintenance budget.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the Capital Programme 2017/20 and funding method set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved; and
- b) the proposed Asset Maintenance budget of £519,000 be agreed for 2017/18.

73. Financial Results - to the end of December 2016

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report on the Council's financial results 2016/17 to the end of December 2016. The year-end position was currently forecast to be an unfavourable variance of £10,000, subject to Council's approval to a supplementary estimate of £210,000 that was recommended by Finance Advisory Committee on 15 November 2016.

He advised that the Finance Advisory Committee had considered and debated the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

The item was discussed by Members who welcomed the report and thanked the Finance team for the thorough process which gave Members assurance that there were sound financial controls in place.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 9.20 PM

CHAIRMAN

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

This notice was published on 13 February 2017. The decisions contained in Minutes 70, 72 and 73 take effect immediately. The decisions contained in Minutes 67, 68 and 69 take effect on 21 February 2017. The decisions contained in Minutes 66 and 71 are references to Council.

BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of the: Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report seeks approval for a change to the list of officers authorised to sign cheques and sanction banking instruments on behalf of the Council. It applies to just one of the Council's bank accounts.

This report supports the Key Aim of efficient management of the Council's resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Scholey

Contact Officer Roy Parsons, Principal Accountant - Ext 7204

Recommendations to Cabinet:

- a) That Mr John Leach, former Solicitor, no longer be authorised to sign cheques and sanction banking instruments on behalf of the Council in relation to the Chief Executive's Imprest Account; and
 - b) That pursuant to Financial Procedure Rules 4.73 and 4.74, Mr Martin Goodman, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, and Mr David Lagzdins, Solicitor, be authorised to sign cheques and sanction banking instruments on behalf of the Council in relation to the Chief Executive's Imprest Account.
-

Reason for recommendations: To bring up to date and expand the list of authorised signatories for one of the Council's bank accounts.

Background and Introduction

- 1 The Council operates an imprest account for use by the Legal Section to defray small but urgent items of expenditure. Typically, those items might be for Land Registry searches or legal fees where a cheque has to be deposited with an application.
- 2 This account operates independently of the Council's main bank accounts. It is funded up to a maximum of £700 at any one time. The signatories to it are members of the Legal Section.

Changes Required

- 3 The Council's Financial Procedure Rules require Cabinet approval for officers other than the Chief Executive or Section 151/Chief Finance Officer to be able to sign cheques or sanction banking instruments on behalf of the Council.
- 4 At present, the only approved signatories to the account are Mr Graham Grove and Mr John Leach, the latter of whom left the Council's employment some while ago. Mr Leach's authorisation expired upon his termination of employment. The recommendations in this report seek to increase the list of signatories from two to three in order to provide cover for staff absences.
- 5 As the account is only funded to a maximum of £700, it is proposed that a sole signatory is required for items of expenditure below this sum and that dual signatories are required for items of expenditure above it.

Key Implications

Financial

- 6 There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

- 7 Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Section 151 Officer has statutory duties in relation to the financial administration and stewardship of the authority, including the operation of banking facilities.
- 8 For day to day practical reasons, officers need to be authorised to sign cheques and sanction banking instruments on behalf of the Council. Failure to have authorised signatories in place would severely restrict the Council in the way in which it could operate bank accounts and deal with its financial needs.
- 9 Protection is in place by limiting the balance held in the Chief Executive's Imprest Account to a maximum of £700 at any one time and requiring dual signatories on amounts over this sum.

Equality Assessment

- 10 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

- 11 In order to facilitate payment of small but urgent items of expenditure, an imprest account is maintained. Members are being asked to update the list of authorised signatories to it.

Appendices: None

Background Papers: Constitution of Sevenoaks District Council,
Appendix D - Financial Procedure Rules:-
[Document 21 - Appendix D - Financial Procedure Rules](#)

Adrian Rowbotham
Chief Finance Officer

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES FOR 2017-18

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Cabinet Decision

Also considered by: Cabinet - 10 November 2016

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary:

This report informs Members of the outcome of the public consultation on the annual review of parking charges for 2017-18, which proposed the extension of charges in the Council's Blighs car park and a modest rise to one on-street tariff in Sevenoaks town.

This report supports the Key Aim of:

The effective management of Council resources and supporting the local economy.

Portfolio Holder Councillor Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer John Strachan, Ext.7310

Recommendation:

That following consideration of the responses to the public consultation, the revised parking charges for 2017-18 be agreed by Cabinet.

Reason for recommendation:

To help regulate and manage the use of on and off street parking facilities in the District; to ensure car parking charges are set to support a sustainable local economy; and, to support services for residents as set out in the approved 10 year budget.

Introduction

- 1 This report considers the responses to proposals for revised charges in the Council's car parks and the fees for on street parking for 2017-18.
- 2 Two amendments to the 2016-17 scheme were proposed. Firstly, a minor change to improve car park management which would see the normal daily tariff extended to include Sundays in the Council's flagship Blighs car park in Sevenoaks town to help promote greater turnover of spaces. Free parking would continue to be preserved on street and in all the Council's other car parks. Secondly, simplification of the on-street tariff in central Sevenoaks (High Street, London Road, South Park) by bringing it in line with the pound per hour pricing available in the Council's car parks, albeit whilst retaining the popular thirty minute stay.

Background Information

- 3 Proposals were considered by Cabinet on 10 November 2016 and officers were directed to carry out a public consultation on them.
- 4 The public consultation fulfils the duty the Council has to notify the public of the proposals to vary parking charges.
- 5 Attached as an appendix is an analysis of the consultation responses.

Key Implications

Financial

- 6 The Council's 10 year budget assumes a 2.5% increase in the levels of income, including from parking, to enable the delivery of a balanced budget and continued provision of valued services to residents. Members reduced this figure from 3.5% to reflect the authority's continuing focus on introducing further efficiencies, increasing investment income and to reflect the national economic climate of recent years. The proposed changes in charges would satisfy this requirement.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

- 7 Changes to the charges will require Notices of Variation in respect of the on-street Traffic Regulation Order and the off-street Parking Order governing the management of on-street and off-street parking arrangements.

Equality Impacts

- 8 There is a low risk that the proposals in this report would have any implications under the Equality Act.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 9 Measured and reasonable parking charges can encourage the use of more sustainable transport options and healthier lifestyles for journeys to school, work, and visits to shops and other amenities in towns and villages.

Human Rights

- 10 There are no human rights issues or implications.

Conclusions

- 11 Adoption of the revised parking charges will help improve management of parking in the District whilst also satisfying the Council's financial targets.

Appendices

Appendix A - Responses to the public consultation on the annual review of parking charges for 2017-18

Appendix B - Proposed Fees and Charges

Richard Wilson,

Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

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1. Sevenoaks District Council conducted a public consultation on the proposed charges between 12 December and 10 February 2017. 273 responses were received, which comprised:
 - Businesses – 5
 - Residents – 227, of which 136 were from TN13/14
 - Visitors – 33
 - Other Organisations – 6
2. The majority of the representations had common themes and phrases – indeed some were identical – indicating that there may have been a degree of coordination or direction in responding. The content of some suggested that the November report was not fully considered or understood by respondents prior to completing the survey.
3. Opponents of the proposed tariff extension in Blighs cited a number of beliefs, notably that it would:
 - have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

SDC supports local businesses. The proposal aim to improve the turnover of spaces in Blighs which will in turn support shops and restaurants in Sevenoaks. As with any changes, the impact will be closely monitored.

Those who suggested shoppers would choose to travel to neighbouring towns or shopping destinations are referred to evidence provided in Paragraph 7 of the November report, which respondents were encouraged to read.

Furthermore it should be remembered that parking will remain free in over 1,000 off-street bays in the town centre.

- small shops will be disadvantaged.

There is no evidence to suggest the proposals will disadvantage any shops, let alone small businesses.

- disadvantage the rugby club, leisure centre and church goers.

Other car parks, in which parking is free, are more convenient for all the churches in Sevenoaks, the leisure centre and the rugby club. Indeed if customers are parking in Blighs for those then they are occupying spaces which are better suited to shoppers.

- lead to charging in all car parks on Sundays.

This is not one of the proposals under consideration.

- be unenforceable.

SDC already carries out enforcement on Sundays. It should be noted that Civil Enforcement Officers are not employed solely for revenue protection purposes, they also encourage the efficient management of a finite resource and, importantly, endeavour to ensure parking is carried out in a safe manner.

- mean workers will be obliged to pay on Sundays.

Spaces in all other car parks will remain free, including the SDC staff car park in Gordon Road which provides complimentary all-day parking at weekends to assist workers in the town – this was a widely applauded improvement made last year.

4. Whilst only a few respondents mentioned on-street charges, no representations were received in direct opposition to the proposed on-street tariff simplification.

5. Other remarks included:

- the evening charge should be reformed.

This is not one of the proposals under consideration.

- thirty minute stays should be available in the town.

These are already available.

- parking in Sevenoaks is more expensive than neighbouring towns.

It is not – details were provided in Appendix A of the November report, which respondents were encouraged to read.

- there are an insufficient number of spaces in the town.

SDC is working towards the development of additional parking capacity in the town and will continue to manage those spaces which are available in the most appropriate fashion.

- improved station parking is required.

The new upgraded Bradbourne car park will open in April, which will include innovative Premium Bays, more flexible payment options and short-stay parking to help local businesses, notably the shops around the station on London Road.

- support the charges but the disabled bays should remain free of charge.

Introducing charges for Blue Badge holders parked in disabled bays is not one of the proposals under consideration.

E Mail Responses
<p>“I would like to object in the strongest terms to your proposed introduction of charges for parking on Sundays at The Leisure Centre and Blighs.</p> <p>At Sevenoaks Rugby Club, we provide sports facilities for over 800 children on Sundays, and have been specifically requested by both the Town and District Councils to encourage our members not to park near the club, in order to avoid serious traffic congestion and preserve the quiet neighbourhood for residents. Despite having to walk down to Knole Paddock from the town car parks with kitbags and quite small children, parents have responded very well to this request, as responsible members of the community.</p> <p>Many of our parents are already financially stretched in providing kit, transport and fees (although our subs are amongst the lowest in Kent), often for more than one child, and we feel it is extremely unfair to penalise them by suddenly making them pay for parking.</p> <p>We urge you to reconsider this move, which would hit the parents of Sevenoaks, not just visitors from outside our town who have a choice; it would also inevitably result in a return to parking congestion in the roads around the rugby club.</p> <p>Or perhaps our members could apply for a free parking permit if you go ahead with the new charges?”</p>
<p>“I have completed the survey but wanted to express further concerns about the proposed parking charges.</p> <p>I do feel along with many others that this will seriously affect the local shops as many people, myself included will go to other market towns that don't charge or to Bluewater.</p> <p>The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday. This could mean the decline of another high street.</p> <p>Also with fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.</p> <p>A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network (Approx 6000 members) are outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.</p> <p>I am sure that nothing the local residents or businesses say will dissuade the council but ask that the charges are seriously reconsidered.”</p>

"I have filled in the survey and am now writing to you in opposition to the proposal to charge the community to park in Blighs Car Park on a Sunday.

I run a group of 6000 Sevenoaks mums and this is their response to your intent to charge them to visit the town with their families on the one day in which parking does not represent a barrier to visit.

Arguments against:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, 'Sevenoaks Mums Network' is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. This group opposes the proposal - it has 6000 members.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Thank you in advance for your time spent reading my email to you. I look forward to your response."

"Please accept the replacement of point 9. in my earlier email.

Will change in both threads and send a retraction email to the Council with replacement text:

9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (opinions have been collected) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage."

"I am so shocked at the parking charges in Sevenoaks town already and now you are

going to charge us on a Sunday?! Are you trying to kill the town off?! I belong to Sevenoaks mum's network on Facebook and we are all so upset and shocked! I don't come into Sevenoaks town at the best of times because the parking is a joke and now you are going to charge us on a Sunday?! When half the shops are not open?! There will be nothing left in the town by the time you have finished with it! I have spent all my life living in and around Sevenoaks and I find this sole destroying!"

Online Survey Responses

I think that by charging for parking on a Sunday it will have a negative effect on the town centre. I fear that people would stop coming to the shops and restaurants and go elsewhere. We're lucky in Sevenoaks to have so many independent shops, but they won't be able to survive if the shoppers are pushed to go elsewhere.

It's greedy and grabby and you should be ashamed of yourselves. This will damage trade for small businesses as people vote with their feet for other locations. Your fees are already extortionate and this is a slap in the face for those people who use the town on a Sunday for family time, and who might not be able to afford it otherwise. Parking is limited in town and whilst locals can walk in, anyone slightly further out (I'm in Otford) has no choice but to park. It's also the only place with parent/child parking so you are penalising those people too.

insane idea it will kill the high street. I would shop elsewhere and eat elsewhere. The council needs better brainstorming if it thinks this is a good idea to generate additional income!!! It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience. With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement. Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Parking charges in Sevenoaks are already high, compared to other destination town centres such as West Malling, and to out of town shopping locations such as Bluewater. Charging for Sunday parking at this level will be detrimental to the residents and businesses of Sevenoaks. More specifically: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They are unlikely to spend as much time in town if paying full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, especially as it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year. Whilst other spaces may be available in theory, if they are not available on the day these workers will incur these unavoidable extra costs.

It is a diabolical idea. I chose to go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday, and not on other days, to avoid the extortionate charges. If Sunday charges are introduced I won't shop in Sevenoaks at all.

Ridiculous. During the week I have often decided not to go into Sevenoaks to either buy items I require or meet friends for coffee/lunch due to the existing charges and Have gone to other locations such as Bluewater as they offer free parking. It's a additional expense that I do not need. My family and I often go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday to use the leisure facilities, eat lunch and/or buy a few items. If these proposed charges go ahead we will have to review this and I would imagine reduce/stop of our visits. Ultimately it will further inconvenience residents and affect the local economy.

Please don't charge in lights on Sundays. Let us use our town centre free of charge. My elderly parents love going for lunch in town and it's so much easier for them to walk from blighs.

Damage Sunday trading Not fair to charge full price when only half the shops are open Will just go to Bluewater or T. Wells instead Tend to go out for leisurely breakfast on a Sunday, won't be doing this if have to pay for parking. Have small child and there are no other parent and child spaces in Sevenoaks! One step towards charging for all the car parks

Yes to normalising charges. Charging on Sunday is quite clearly just a revenue earning ploy with no benefit for local businesses nor residents, therefore oppose these charges.
Absolutely disgraceful! The parking fees are insanely priced as it is killing so much trade in Sevenoaks already! Shops come and go so rapidly and one of the reasons is the prices we are expected to pay to park. People shop in bluewater and the like instead. Do not ruin the Sunday trade as well!!
The evening charges at Blighs are too high. It should be free after 6pm. The suggestion that you will now charge on Sunday also is not popular and is strongly objected to.
I think it's a real shame to introduce parking charges on sundays. I have spoken to people who would rather go soemwhere like an industrial estate where there are no charges than park in town, which means local businesses lose trade. I would also welcome machines that let you pay for half an hour. For example, with children I often think something will take me an hour but I don't want to go over the timing in case I have to deal with tantrums so have to pay for 2 hours just in case, when half an hour would do.
Please no charges on a Sunday-unless you want our town to completely die a death!!! Also many spaces in the car park behind tescos is used by parents taking children to sevenoaks rugby club playing at lady boswells school fieldz If you start charging then it will be even harder to park at this time and cause chaos where there are free spaces. Let's support children's clubs not make everything harder and more expensive for parents!!
I am against the proposed parking charges. It is very expensive to park in Sevenoaks and this deters me from shopping in the town centre. A Sunday is the only time I go into town to look at the shops, if I have to pay for parking I will go elsewhere. Also what about the people who work in town. It is very expensive for them to park near their work
Ridiculous. The whole point of a Sunday in my eyes is to be with family or friends and to socialise or relax doing what you want to do. That may include meeting people for a coffee. A nice cheat day lunch or a walk around knole park or town. There will be nobody coming to Sevenoaks if they have to pay. Instead. Families will be sitting at home on the sofa eating junk food getting obese or playing computer games rather than being outside in the fresh air.
I disagree with full parking charges on. a Sunday. The town is not fully operational on a Sunday and it instead encourages people to the centre for other interests such as leisure time on the vine. This should not be discouraged.
Please do not charge for parking on a Sunday in Blighs Sevenoaks, firstly there aren't enough shops open to warrant it but even if there were it would put me off popping in to Sevenoaks and would go to a bigger shopping centre to park for free! Also the poor shops will suffer and restaurants will suffer. I strongly feel it should be left the way it is.

Not having a consistent approach seems silly. So you will have to pay someone to just police one car park? Seems inefficient. We often use Blighs on a Sunday and this charge would put us off coming to Sevenoaks all together as with 2 kids this is the most convenient car park.

Parking in Sevenoaks is a nightmare - it's hard to find a space and there is nowhere with a 20minute free limit incase you literally just need to pop to one shop briefly. Most towns I've lived in have at least one street with this option.

Disagree. Bad for shop owners and community

There should be no charges for Blighs on a Sunday. As I have small children if I'm going to park in Sevenoaks it would be there due to the proximity to the shops. I would only park on a Sunday if it were free. Not that many shops are open on Sunday and it's not worth paying for a half open high street. I think charging will also destroy Sunday trading n Sevenoaks, making it not viable for shops to open on Sunday and reducing their profitability as a whole, leading to further closures. Furthermore if there are charges for Blighs, I would simply go to Tonbridge or other nearby towns where parking is free. Please sort out commuter parking for part time workers rather than trying to destroy the town centre.

If you charge on Sundays then the few people that shop in Sevenoaks town will go elsewhere and there will be more shops closing down. Its a ridiculous idea just to get more money out of people.

I am totally opposed to introducing Sunday parking charges in Blighs. The attraction of Sevenoaks on a Sunday is that parking is free everywhere - this means a much more relaxed shopping and/or restaurant experience as you don't have to check the time to see if you are exceeding your parking. Customers will stay longer and spend more if they aren't restricted by paid parking. Inevitably if it is introduced in Blighs it is only a matter of time before this gets rolled out to all the car parks. Have you considered a radical idea of passing parking revenue onto retailer rates instead (if the council so desperately needs the revenue?). I am forever cutting my shopping trips short because my parking is running out. I would stay longer and spend more if my trips weren't curtailed because of my parking running out. Better for retailers and better for the customer. Please keep Sevenoaks the town it is. Stop inhibiting trade and allow the retailers to flourish.

I am against the introduction of parking charges on Sundays. This will only push local shoppers to places further afield such as Bluewater. Having shopped in Sevenoaks regularly on a Sunday there has never been a problem with turnover of spaces. Sevenoaks Council should be supporting its local businesses - this will be doing the opposite of that. It will also be detrimental to The Stag and push cinemagoers to multiplexes with free parking.

It will be assumed that this is the first step to changing all car parking fees in Sevenoaks on a Sunday, therefore the shopper will choose a location where parking is guaranteed to be free of charge.

I'm already concerned about the number of businesses closing on the High Street. This proposal will only make things more difficult (for the smaller and independent business we love in particular) as customers are more likely to turn to larger shopping centres like Bluewater or leisure centres like Tunbridge Wells industrial estate, which offer more choice as well as free parking. Even compared with other nearby market towns (e.g. Tonbridge, Oxted) the parking costs in Sevenoaks are extremely high, particularly in Blighs (the most family friendly car park with its larger spaces and parent & child bays). I am fortunate to live within walking distance of the town centre so rarely need to drive and park myself, but this will keep many of my friends from coming into Sevenoaks and force us to meet elsewhere. Please don't go ahead with these charges - help protect our lovely town.

As it stands, I find parking in town expensive and if I want to support local businesses by going to the cinema and lunch then there is limited parking choices as you would need more than 4 hours (the long-stay at the leisure centre is always full). This already makes us choose to either go elsewhere (Bluewater, Tunbridge Wells etc) or to do this on a Sunday in Sevenoaks when parking is free. I believe by additionally charging for parking in Blighs on Sundays, it will further harm our town and the local businesses that we would all like to support. Blighs is also the most convenient car park for parents with young children. By enforcing such charges, I feel the Council will do more harm than good to our town.

It will be the death of Sevenoaks small businesses as people choose to shop elsewhere on a Sunday. Personally, we come from Tonbridge and park in Sevenoaks most Sundays as a) it's free b) it's close and c) there are parent and child spaces (unlike Tonbridge). However with a) out of the equation we'll go to our rainy day shopping destination Bluewater instead. I don't see how Sevenoaks will possibly be able to compete.

Awful. More and more businesses around Blighs seem to be closed on a Sunday, which means shoppers are heading to Bluewater. With the introduction of Sunday parking charges I would only assume this situation will get worse and the town centre will be effectively closed on a Sunday.

I think that the parking in Sevenoaks is expensive and stops me from going into town so much. If charged go up or are implemented on Sunday's I will visit Sevenoaks less.

Proposed Charges for Sunday parking at Blighs Car Park - I believe that this would detrimentally impact on the Sunday trade for small businesses possibly leading them to close on a Sunday impacting on the whole town or worse still close permanently. Sunday visitors to Sevenoaks may well be visiting restaurants and a longer time span is required. Other local towns such as Oxted and Tunbridge Wells retail park offer free Sunday parking so therefore become more attractive and take business away from Sevenoaks. Charging for Blighs could be a gateway for Sunday charges being implemented in all Sevenoaks car parks which then will have a greater impact on the amount of people that choose to use the town in a Sunday. Parking charges are expensive in Sevenoaks and deters visitors in the week for staying for a long period by charging on Sunday you will alienate customers to the shops/restaurants/cinema and people will vote with their feet and go elsewhere this will affect the high street long term - give the public this one small perk of free Sunday parking.

The charges in Sevenoaks car parks are already too high, as a long term Sevenoaks resident living in Chipstead, I simply don't come into the town any more as it's money wasted on parking. I'm sorry to say that it's easier to shop out of town or online. Charging on Sunday's will simply worsen the situation. It is a shame as the small businesses in Sevenoaks simply won't survive. Towns such as Oxted have free parking in the centre of town, and a thriving high street of small independents.....

Please do not charge for parking on a Sunday. This makes me and my family choose Sevenoaks over Bluewater or another shopping facility with free parking. I feel it would negatively impact shopping and leisure visits to Sevenoaks High Street.

Don't think we should pay on Sundays. Parking in Sevenoaks is prohibitively expensive. Not everyone who lives in Sevenoaks is loaded! I do not own a 4 by 4 😊

I think it's very expensive to park already. People will go elsewhere on Sunday if expected to pay then too!

I don't think it's fair, it's already a very expensive car park, makes you think twice before heading to the high street to shop, Sundays was a good day to shop as the parking was free...take that way and I believe that the local business will struggle even more.

Ridiculous that we will have to pay on Sunday's as well, also that we have to pay so till so late at night! I think the real issue is the long stay, I am a working mum who works 5 hours and am at the car park at 9am and can never get a space meaning I have to use my 10min break to go and move my car as parking is not sufficient, seems like it discriminates against working parents!!! Need to make it bigger or make short stays 6hr parking!!!

The reasons given for the proposal to charge for parking on Sundays in Blighs car park are to increase the turnover of cars. I go into Sevenoaks regularly on a Sunday after my children play sports and we usually visit some shops and then have some food. There are rarely any issues parking in Blighs however I do accept that this is not always the case in busy Christmas weeks. Charging for this car park will push me to street or other car parks and therefore you are just moving the "problem" elsewhere. There is no problem, it smacks of charging for income rather than parking management and I am really against it. The businesses in town need as much traffic as possible to remain viable, they are quiet enough as it is on a Sunday and this proposed parking charges will push people away if only as a protest. Don't do it, you are trying to solve a problem which doesn't exist. Regards Susan Smith

This is not welcomed at all. As a sevenoaks town resident for over 5 years I have continued to support our town centre and its businesses. With the charges rising constantly I for certain will not continue to support the town. I spend on average around £20 a week on parking as a busy mother and using local businesses. How will they survive if this continues? There will be no town or footfall closing most of the smaller independent traders. I will be forced to use bluewater which has free parking. To save our town and its residents I certainly think this a terrible and yet again greedy idea!

It is quite ridiculous to raise car park charges when it is already so high. And to start charging on a Sunday will only kill local businesses as I for one will avoid at all costs. I strongly object and disagree with raising charges for the on road parking and also object to the tariffs being implemented on Sunday in Bligh.

We live in Swanley near the railway station the charges in the area are far too cheap as most of the people that park work in London so maybe the charge should reflect this, minimum of £2.00 per hour and £8.00 all day with no over night parking. Meter parking other roads like the top end of St Marys Road, in the places allowed from 10am also everywhere else.

As a member of St Nicholas Church - both the services at St Nicks and our church plant - Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswell's School will be affected by Sunday charging. Our own car parks are always full.

Strongly object to losing free parking on a Sunday. Will not be shopping or eating in Sevenoaks if charges are introduced. Local businesses will suffer.

Completely disagree with charging on Sundays. If this goes ahead will 100% shop/eat elsewhere Bluewater, Nugents Park etc.

I attend a local church in the town and parking is limited at the church and so parking at the council car parks is essential. As I live outside of the town and need to drive into church, this would impact my attendance as well as a lot of people's attendance.

First 15 minutes should be free. That will help the local shops. But parking should NOT be pay and display. It should be pay for time used upon leaving. This way people won't feel a need to rush back, and you may earn more, not less, despite not earning penalties in revenue. But now, no need to hire a traffic warden. Also, visiting S'oaks becomes a more pleasurable experience for all.
I don't think it is a good idea to have charges on a Sunday as this would be very problematic for Grace Church (a St Nicholas church plant) which meets at Lady Boswells school. There are too many people for the car park at the school so the leisure centre is often used.
I use the high street shops more on a Sunday because the parking is free. If you charge on a Sunday you will kill trade and especially that of small businesses. People will go to Bluewater where the parking is free.
Terrible. Should be free parking on a Sunday to encourage shoppers into the town
Local businesses struggle enough when competing with the big shopping centres such as Bluewater. please don't impact on these businesses more than they are. It won't be long before local town shopping is a thing of the passed. You should be encouraging locals to use their local shops. It is very short sighted approach by the council because they rely on revenue from business rates etc, if you start introducing charges on Sunday then it may put further pressure on businesses and therefore we may see shops close down. I don't my think evening charges should apply either.
I feel quite strongly against this proposition for two reasons: 1. The council is making it difficult for local businesses to survive - as shoppers choose to opt for free parking in Bluewater. 2. We live on a quiet cul-de-sac close to town and on Sunday's there is a lovely community feel with the children playing football and out on bikes because it is safe as there are less cars using the on street parking. Whereas Mon-Sat - we get many more cars who drive down the road and park to avoid the hefty car park prices for town.
Disposable and unnecessary greedy. It will kill the town
Awful. You will be destroying Sevenoaks as a town centre and forcing people to travel to out of area shopping centres such as Bluewater. The local community and businesses will be affected. It's greedy.
Sunday's should continue to be free parking days. I regularly drive to other towns so I don't need to pay parking charges and only shop in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

I find this a shocking proposal for several reasons and do not support it under any circumstances

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

The council should be ashamed of themselves.

This will have a huge impact on church attendance.

To charge a parking fee on a Sunday, will push even more business away from Sevenoaks! I think doing this is very short sighted of the council and greedy.

I welcome harmonisation of charges across all car parks and freezing them. I do not welcome the introduction of charges in Blighs on a Sunday.

I attend Grace Church at Lady Boswells school and regularly park in the leisure centre car park. As someone who does not live in Sevenoaks and therefore does not have a resident's permit, paid parking would be very inconvenient and further limit my parking options in Sevenoaks.

I'm shocked and very disappointed that you are even thinking about charging people to park in Sevenoaks Blighs on a Sunday. There are so many wonderful shops and restaurants in Sevenoaks and by putting a charge in the carpark you are pushing us away from these places. Also it's incredibly unfair on the people who work in Sevenoaks. They should not have to pay.

I disagree with the proposed charge on Sundays at Blighs. This will deter people from shopping/eating out in Sevenoaks centre and I urge you to reconsider.

I think this is really sad. It is already difficult for a lot of our shops to make money during this difficult time. We have more empty shops due to excessive rates than I ever care to remember. Sundays is for lazy shopping, going for lunch, maybe a little more shopping. Being stuck on a time will only remove spending opportunities. It will be another frantic day, like Saturdays. I will be more tempted to go to Blue Water now. I hate the idea of having to pay ridiculous prices for parking. But I am happy to 6 days of the week if it means I get free parking on Sunday. Shame on you for being so gluttonous. Typical really of the council you have become.

Charging for parking on Sundays in the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre car park will prove very problematic as many people use this to attend Grace Church, held in Lady Boswell's school and accessed via the gate to the Leisure Centre. It will be an extra barrier to newcomers and current members of the congregation and I do not think the benefits will be at all visible.

This proposal would be very detrimental to many who attend Sevenoaks Grace Church on a Sunday morning at Lady Boswells School. Due to limited parking at the school, many park at the Leisure Centre. Please reconsider this plan and keep it to week day and Saturday parking only.

It would make church attendance more difficult.

I am very much in support of local shopping but the increase in parking over the last 7 years since we have lived there now really has us questioning this. The alternative, often, is to pop to Bluewater with free parking all the time & the roads are generally quiet on a Sunday too. We are in Oxted every Saturday for our children's Gymnastics classes and are increasingly using Oxted town to pick up the few bits we need as they have free parking. Normally we end up spending more money there than we'd intended. We would otherwise do this in Sevenoaks but the parking really has now reached a level where it is simply putting us off. I can't believe we are the only ones. Below are the main reasons for my objections:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience.
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Bluewater is a big pull. I am keen to support local businesses but not at any cost....the parking makes a big difference.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is both illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement.
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. We are there for gymnastics every Saturday & have taken to shopping there more as the free parking really means it's find to pop there for the few bits we need but we often then spend more.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Dear Sir, As Rector St Nicholas Sevenoaks I would want to register my concern about the effect of charging on Sundays. Many folk who attend our congregations in different parts of Sevenoaks need to use these car parks and putting a charge on this facility would be a disincentive. I fully recognise that these are not easy decisions for the Council but I would be grateful if you could reconsider the proposal to charge on Sundays. Yours sincerely Revd Canon Angus MacLeay

I have a negative review as we use the car park for church attendance (church service at Lady Boswells school at 10am).

I am completely against the proposed parking charges. Please find arguments below:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
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- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Charging for parking on Sunday is completely unnecessary. I already avoid going into Sevenoaks where possible if I have to pay for parking and try and shop locally on a Sunday. If parking charges are introduced it will definitely deter me. I'll just go to Bluewater where it's free. There are no other parent and child spaces in council car parks, to my knowledge in Sevenoaks, other than Blighs. This is not fair.

It will kill Sunday shopping! Enough shops have closed anyway in Sevenoaks, it's too easy and cheaper just to go to Bluewater.

I feel this is totally shocking ! Living in Sevenoaks is so expensive as it is ! The parking is super expensive the only perk is free parking on a Sunday and now you as a council are taking this away from us . Many families that live in Sevenoaks who are not super rich like most of them look forward to free parking and making use of the shops ! No rushing around in 1 hour like I would on a week day ! I find this totally unexceptable and I'm very sad at the way Sevenoaks is turning out . Why is everything about money it costs a fortune to live here which I have all my life the whole parking system is appealing ! Shame on Sevenoaks district council . I'm not surprised people who have lived here for all there lives have moved away !!!

The management of parking in Sevenoaks is incredibly flawed and fails to provide a coherent policy that functions for residents or businesses but is expensive for visitors. I do not agree that more charges should be levied on parking as this will not solve the fundamental issue but will further damage the attractiveness of visiting Sevenoaks. Parking on streets should be reserved for residents and their visitors only to foster community and prevent isolation due to the difficulty of regular family, friend or carer visiting. The use of resident on street parking for short stay public Parking is completely unacceptable. The cost of parking in Sevenoaks car parks should be kept to a minimum to continue to attract shoppers into the town. The difficulty of parking and the severe lack of suitable parking for shoppers from nearby villages is 1: killing the town centre and 2: demonstrates a real short sighted council policy and does nothing to ensure the towns future. What Sevenoaks needs is not further parking charges but creative parking policy to provide the required parking for shoppers. This is most likely to include more convenient car parks

As a mother of two young children it is less safe to park on roads which would be free so this is unfair and should be taken into consideration. Not that I do this every week but it's a good opportunity to just park and relax without worrying about time etc on tickets. If I were to have to pay I would go elsewhere which others may deride to do taking away business from my local town

I disagree with the proposed parking charges being introduced on a Sunday at Blighs car park. This will damage Sunday trading, and why target this particular car park, surely this is the first step towards introducing it into all your car parks on a Sunday? High streets are dying across the country and you want to introduce more parking charges. You will drive custom towards places where parking is free e.g. Bluewater, Tunbridge Wells Industrial Estate.

Bad idea for businesses in Sevenoaks- keep Sundays free everywhere!

Far too expensive - puts people off shopping locally which is a great shame for small businesses.

I think the price of parking in Sevenoaks is a deterrent to shopping in the town. When compared to Oxted where parking is free and has a vibrant, largely independent high street, I think the expensive and regular increases in parking charges in Sevenoaks has been highly detrimental to the independent shopkeepers, so that in effect it is becoming another homogeneous high street. At present, I keep my visits to the town at a minimum and unless I can secure a 2-hour free parking space regularly turn around and head home. I object strongly to spending money on parking if I only need to head into one or two shops, surely the bread-and-butter of a small town?

You are killing the High Street. Stop being so greedy!

The proposed charges on Sunday are outrageous. Sundays aren't a problem to park in Sevenoaks, so to make out that these charges are to free up spaces is absurd and greedy

I think any charges on a Sunday are a terrible idea. I'll vote with my car and go elsewhere to shop on the weekend if you implement those plans. To charge the same as a weekday is just rude.

Personally I feel the parking charges in Sevenoaks are a disgrace far to expensive for what Sevenoaks as a town has to offer! So I only tend to come up on a Sunday but if the parking on a Sunday is charged I won't bother I would rather go further a field than give Sevenoaks council more money especially when they own businesses in Sevenoaks that they profit on too!!!

Greedy and unnecessary would put me off going to Sevenoaks on a Sunday

I think charging for car parking on Sundays is purely mercenary. Please don't do it. Do you want to drive more people away from the high street?

Discusted! It will kill the business in Sevenoaks. Far too expensive.

The Sunday charging in Blighs at exactly the same rate as the rest of the week, having been free, is unacceptable. It is unfair on the businesses that rely on people visiting on a Sunday, and who often have to pay extra for staff to work on a Sunday. It will lead to the demise of the high street, which the council should be trying to promote. And it is unfair on people who at the moment at least have the option to pop into M&S for a few bits without being charged on a Sunday.

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I'm shocked that the council are implementing more charges to parking... mon-sat prices are already extortionate. It would be great to actually understand where this income is actually being spent/invested and what the justification for this change is? I grew up near Oxted, Surrey - a similar sized town which provides free parking year-round and still delivers a similar standard of public conditions as Sevenoaks... without charging the earth.

Awful. We have already lost so many independent shops. Fewer people will come when they can go elsewhere for free. Money will be wasted on extra traffic wardens anyway

As long as this charge ONLY applies to Blighs car park and ALL the other town centre car parks stay free of charge, I am not opposed to this for regular users. However, I feel it should stay free on a Sunday for disabled users who may need a centrally located car park for health reasons.

Why? It's so expensive to park any way during the week & now you set charging on a Sunday! I feel sorry for the local businesses that will suffer because of it!

We are all encouraged to shop locally but with parking fees the way they are going we might as well jump on a train and shop elsewhere. Very disappointed and our local council should be encouraging us to stay local not push us away.

It's wrong and will damage small businesses. Let's not have another shabby closed down High street as seen across uk.

It's a terrible idea. Parking is already difficult and expensive enough in the town centre and charging in this car park on Sundays will just put even more pressure on the very few parking spaces available for residents in zone A, where it's already virtually impossible to find a space on any given day of the week due to people parking to go to the shops. Please don't make the on-street situation even worse by taking away free Sunday parking in Bligh's car park.

1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

It's a shocking disgrace!! The shops in town struggle enough without more car parking fees.....not all of the shops open on Sunday but we pop down regularly for a mooch about and to buy lunch and often end up buying in the other shops too. The car park costs in town are high enough on the other days, at least let us have one days respite to be able to support local shops!!

It is already prohibitive to park in Sevenoaks. Competition with Bluewater will kill the town. Sunday charging will appear exactly what it is , greedy.

Do not charge on a Sunday. The general public WILL NOT benefit from this so don't dress it up as 'better management' of the car park with quicker turnover. People will stay as long as they need to stay.

To help promote trade in town I think the first 20 mins should be free. Paying on the way out would be helpful too.

Sevenoaks is just recovering from the recession and building up its reputation amongst commuters or stay in London to eat and shop rather than do so locally. Businesses small and large are coming back and slowly customers are returning too. Whilst I appreciate that local budgets are tight don't cut the blood supply off to the local businesses. If you don't live in the centre of town you have to drive there, free parking on Sunday attracts custom. I fear many will just go to Bluewater out of principle if they are forced to pay parking in Blighs, the most obvious and convenient of car parks. I encourage you to reconsider this change, for the sake of community spirit, support for you local businesses and for the reputation of Sevenoaks council. I fear this is just another token consultation as many have been, please do prove me wrong.

It will hurt our high street even more . People (including myself) will head to other town where parking is free. Enough we pay every day of the week

As a life long resident, dissappointed that you see the need to introduce this. Sunday's are a great family day in the town with Sevenoaks Rugby, lunches, coffee or shopping without having to worry about outstanding the parking meter.

Keep Sunday free!! Parking charges in Sevenoaks are too high anyway. Encourage shoppers to visit Sevenoaks by not charging on a Sunday and lowering the rates the rest of the time. If not shoppers would prefer to go to places like Bluewater where parking is free all the time and there's a greater shopping choice. So why not entice more people to shop in Sevenoaks by not being so greedy with the parking charges!!

Charging for Sunday parking is unacceptable. I already avoid shopping in central Sevenoaks because the car parks are over priced - I no longer use Sevenoaks library, for example. Your proposal is a pathetic attempt to exploit the severe shortage of parking in the district, a failure it is the Council's responsibility to remedy, not exploit. If you really wanted to encourage turnover of spaces you can easily have a max stay of two hours and no return within an hour, like many residential streets do.

I am suposed to the high charges already imposed at Blighs during the week and therefore only frequent the shops and restaurants on a Sunday due to the free parking option. Scrapping this and charging a ludicrous amount on a Sunday will just result in me never setting foot in Sevenoaks again. Bluewater, West Malling and other local areas,where parking is either free or minimal will be a far better alternative. One can hardly argue that there is anything specific to Sevenoaks you can't get else where or order online.

I totally disagree with the proposed parking charges for Blighs Car Park because: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. This equates to thousands of local families. 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think charging for parking in Blighs is a shocking idea and would certainly be the nail in the coffin for Sevenoaks high street. After all, with Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater so close why would you pay to go to Sevenoaks on a Sunday. Myself and my family just wouldn't bother.

I don't agree with the Sunday charge to the blighs. I think there are very few people who take advantage and extend their stay all day on a Sunday. As a frequent user of town (c.5 times a week) I rarely use blighs as it's cost is significantly more than others. As a mother of two children it's nice that one day a week I can pop into Sevenoaks and park centrally without being charged.

I think it will kill Sunday trade in town. It is only in the last few years that Sevenoaks has been open on Sundays. Bluewater which offers free parking will become more attractive - shop, eat and cinema in Sevenoaks or Bluewater? Also, once you charge for Blighs we know other car parks will follow. We're about to pop into town for one thing we need and to go to an independent coffee shop. If it cost us £2 we may decide not to bother. Evening charges already put me off eating in Sevenoaks and in favour of other local eateries. Car parking charges do influence where people go.

It's absolutely outrageous that with parking charges already sky high weekdays the council should seek to impose charges on a Sunday. Eventually people will stop coming into the town
This does not encourage locals to use the town centre. Parking is overpriced as it is. The town will be empty on Sundays if this goes ahead.
I think it is detrimental to sunday trading and the prices are too high.
I really hope a charge will not be introduced for Sunday parking at Blighs. It is surely better for business to have one free day, it allows you to 'nip' in to a shop that you wouldn't go to if you have to pay for parking.
I think it's Terrible, half the shops aren't even open on Sundays so shouldnt be full cost.
Really upset - a very negative move when you should be trying to make Sevenoaks High Street more prosperous. It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
I think it will be terrible for local businesses if Sevenoaks start charging on Sundays. It will stop people bothering to go into town if they have to pay for parking. I often pop into Sevenoaks on a Sunday as convenient and don't have to pay to park. Once the charges come in I will avoid doing this.
I totally against Sunday parking fees and think it's absolutely ridiculous that sevenoaks council is going to charge the public to park on a Sunday especially as no shops are open yet they still want more money. For what exactly??? The roads haven't been maintained properly, we've got no police manning our area making our crime rate go up, they turn off our street lights at stupid o'clock making it difficult for residents to see where they are going and feel they should focus our money being spent there also I'm deeply shocked a homeless man wasn't housed by the council in extreme freezing conditions. Their priorities are slightly amiss to me unless they are more focused on lining their pockets instead of helping the community.
The charges are overall too expensive and to be honest I have refrained from shopping at times as it is so expensive.
I feel it would be wrong to start charging on Sundays. There is no shortage of spaces whenever I go in on a Sunday, and the free parking encourages people to come in to town, and to spend time businesses around the town centre (whether shops, restaurants or cinema). For a family to come in for a meal and a trip to the cinema is very expensive in parking terms, and so Sunday provides a day for people who would otherwise think twice. Also, I think that some car parks should have longer limits than they currently do - I struggle to find spaces that allow enough time to take the kids to the cinema and the for a meal on weekdays during school holidays.

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Sevenoaks need to be kept as an attractive location and this makes Bluewater far more attractive. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. (Not sure how scary this might be 😊) 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I won't be visiting on Sundays anymore for lunch if parking is charged! I find it shocking that on the 1 day that will be free parking - it will now be charged!!!

Unfair proposal Appears greedy Will stop me using local shops on a Sunday

Please do not add a Sunday parking charge for Blighs car park. It's the most expensive car park in the town and it's so nice to have Sunday a free day. Can the parking attendants stop the cars parking in the High Street on the double yellow lines from Cancer Research shop down to Wetherspoons. So annoying when you are queuing up at the traffic lights

To propose Sunday parking tariffs is scandalous in a town where parking prices are already overpriced. The problem is quite simply that there are not enough allocated spaces and charging people to park on a Sunday will not change this. All it will achieve is a Sunday ghost town with no one willing to venture into an already delapidated high street.

I feel that the car parking charges are too high. I live in Sevenoaks and very rarely shop in the town centre because the parking costs are too high. This is a shame because local businesses are deprived of my business. I think that Blighs car park need to reduce the parking charges not increase them.

This is a terrible decision and will put off a lot of people from spending their money on Sevenoaks high street! Even as it is it is a struggle for many businesses to survive and a lot of shops and restaurants and cafes close down. The proposed move will absolutely cripple the high street!

The charges are extortionate in the week and discourages shoppers and diners. I totally disagree with the introduction of Sunday charges I counter propose that charges should be reduced and removed after 6pm

I would oppose any increases on a Sunday on account of the following: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think it's unfair to charge on Sunday's, seen as charges are soo ridiculously high anyway. It will damage the high street as people will choose to shop else were (with free parking)

Sunday car park charges 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I would like to support the parking charges as I live in apple orchard and it is a disgrace with the parking for train station! We have car park for us who live here so I'm hoping that the parking charges would not affect us! Please can you advise how local residents stand in the parking charges.

Please do give people another reason not to bother shopping in Sevenoaks. It's expensive enough.

I oppose we need to keep parking charging free in all car parks. When I've come to town on Sundays there are always free spaces in blighs. This will lead too overcrowding in the free car parks and harm the businesses in Blighs.

Completely disagree with the Sunday charges. Other local towns have considerably cheaper parking already on weekdays so free parking on a Sunday is a "perk" to use local businesses. Why would I potentially pay £10 for 4 hours parking in Sevenoaks to go shopping/have lunch when I can go to Bluewater and park for free and have a greater choice of restaurants and shops? Do you actually want local business or are you looking to become a "chain-store" town just like everywhere else?

1- people who work in the town would have to pay £10 for the day, which would mean they may find other work and cause shops to close. 2- the high street isn't full open many shops are closed. 3- it would make popping to support the local town harder £3 for 2 hours is going to hit many people and businesses hard and it will be easier to pop to bluewater or nugents to buy something than the local town 4- many people will stop using the leisure center and library as it would be too expensive to viist. 5- it will take trade away from the town especially over the weekends and many towns are free to park on Saturday and Sundays. 6- the parking fees do not seem to go towards the maintance of the care of the car parks the leisure center car park has ubeven roads and the lines you can not really see. 7- i certainly will not be going to the town if these changes take place, i will go to a town which has cheaper parking which is a shame as i love sevenoaks and all the shops which are there and the small market on Saturday.

I disagree with parking charges in Sundays. This is the only reason I shop in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

Charging for parking in Blighs on Sunday will impact on Sunday trade, and will particularly affect those with babies or young children who need to park centrally. I am against the introduction of Sunday charges in Blighs.

Parking charges in Sevenoaks mean I no longer shop or eat out there. If you shop and then meet friends/ family for lunch it costs £10! I can go to bluewater and park for free and wait as long as I like and it is not £10 in fuel costs. To charge on a Sunday is ridiculous and especially at same rate as far fewer shops open. The Sunday parking was mainly for eating out therefore all restaurants will suffer. I accept paying for parking is needed during the week/ sat but the prices could be halved! £5 for 3 hrs is just crazy. Shame you are killing the shops in Sevenoaks or only allowing shopping for the minority who can afford to park.

Increasing parking charges in the town will only mean more shoppers will go elsewhere which undoes all the efforts made by local and many independent businesses to bring trade to the town. There are already enough shops closing down with empty units popping up....Joules, Knole Furnishing & now Hoads to name but a few! Sevenoaks is a wealthy area so how about trying to encourage the residents of the town and surrounding areas to come in....otherwise you may as well just put up signage to Bluewater which is a simple 15 minutes drive away with free parking, far more shops not to mention countless bars and restaurants, cinemas etc. I notice there is signage up in Blighs car park trying to encourage people to stay & eat in Sevenoaks restaurants after shopping but if parking charges increase there will be less people coming in to use the restaurants too....all round increasing costs to park in the town is just a negative move.

I think they are too expensive already, without increasing the fee. I think charging on a Sunday will drive people away from Sevenoaks and will make them use shops, restaurants and facilities elsewhere. The Stag will suffer too, as going to the cinema/theatre is expensive enough already, without charging for parking on a Sunday. I for one will not pay to park and will either get the train or will drive to Bluewater. I love shopping in Sevenoaks, but the expensive car parking has driven me and a lot of my friends away from the Town.

Appears unwise and a bit short sighted and blinkered. It will give Sevenoaks an aura of very expensive parking across the board which I would expect will have unintended consequences. I would suggest that if this goes ahead, the council also announces its willingness to review the effect and feedback of this after 6 months and take stock at the end of 2017 with an open mind to possibly repeal it's decision or announce its decision not to do so with clear motivation as to why it would be so positive after all. This does not have to go through a referendum such as the proposed Surrey council tax hike but elections do come up. Has anyone thought of a park and ride scheme for Sevenoaks?

I disagree with Sunday parking charges in Blighs as this will have a detrimental effect on trade in shops and restaurants. Small shops may find trade goes down and without Sunday trading they have to close which would be a great loss to Sevenoaks. Parking charges are already extremely high compared to other towns like Oxted and mean that I find it cheaper to shop on the Internet than drive into town. Enough is enough.

Blighs car park is already extortionately expensive and charging for a Sunday will add another reason not to visit Sevenoaks. Especially when other shopping centres with a wider range of shops, restaurants and cinemas such as Tunbridge Wells and Blue water have free parking on a Sunday. Those working in the town will also have to pay more out of what are often low wages to park. I believe it will deter visitors to Sevenoaks and quite frankly appears greedy. Sevenoaks might present as an affluent town but not all residents are wealthy.

I manage a very large pub in town and rely on families on a Sunday for our Sunday lunch. This will have a huge impact on our trade .

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think it is the worst idea Sevenoaks council have ever come up with. I don't come into Sevenoaks unless I have to because of the parking charges Monday-Saturday and now you want to charge us on Sundays?! For what?! Half the shops are not open and why would I pay to come in and have a coffee when I can go to tesco in riverhead and park for free and still have a coffee?! I can go to bluewater for the cinema and to eat AND park for FREE! It's a joke! Get a grip you are killing Sevenoaks town

Please see below my reasons as to why i am against car parking charges in sevenoaks- already we have the highest car parking charges of any town in the area, our high street is fading and these charges will just put another nail in the coffin of these buisnesses! Already these shops pay extortionate rates, and struggle to compete with bluewater and other centres with free parking!! Arguments against:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.

I do not agree with this proposal. Local residents will be frustrated as people park outside their houses to avoid the charges. Local businesses will also suffer. We already pay a lot for the privilege of parking in Sevenoaks. I am presuming that the traffic wardens will be paid extra for having to work on a Sunday?

Charging on a Sunday is an absolute disgrace! Do the people at Sevenoaks Council think we are all stupid? How can you be so greedy. I will no longer be able to support my local shops as I will not pay these extortionate charges.

I am against a charge in Bligh's car park on Sunday, I believe the current system is not too complicated and parking is already expensive from Mon to sat.

Why charge on Sundays. Ridiculous. If you are trying kill local trade well done. Let's all go to blue water where it is free

It's absolutly ridiculous that people will have to pay for parking on a Sunday in Blighs! A lot of people shop in Sevenoaks because of free parking, if you put this into action then sevenoaks town businesses will loose a lot of money. I'm sure there's enough money in the pot (with your extortionate parking rate) to improve the management of Blighs. I can safely say that 99.9 % of sevenoaks people will firmly disagree with this and you are doing the wrong thing!!

I do not agree that charging for Sunday's is fair. The high street struggles enough and parking charges (especially in Bligh's) will discourage people from shopping/eating/drinking in town on a Sunday. It will affect independent businesses who likely do a lot of trade on Sunday while free parking is in place

Parking is too expensive in Sevenoaks. It puts people off using the town for shopping. Added to that is the lack of spaces and the parking for the station is a joke, complete under allocation for the need. Pushing commuters from outside the area to park in residential streets.

Pleased to learn that parking charges will be largely frozen. However charging on a Sunday will affect members of Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswell's school as many have to park at the Leisure Centre.

I am very worried about introducing parking charges on Sundays. The local streets are already being used by the rugby club other sports clubs and churches and it will make what is already a horrendous car parking issue by the rugby club worse.

Keeping prices the same is a good thing - no one likes prices increases.. however: Charging on a Sunday at Blighs car park seems a very bizarre idea which would be at the detriment of the community especially for those who attend church at lady boswells school or drop off and play or watch rugby at the rugby club. Currently the parking on Sunday mornings on the streets around the rugby club is unmanaged and several cars are on double yellow lines - many park at Blighs but by charging these cars more will move to street parking and being a Sunday several to double yellow lines which causes danger for the young and elderly. If accidents occur as a result of increased street parking perhaps due to more cars moving from safe car parking areas to streets, in particular say if these involve children walking out from their homes and hit by cars parking illegally, then is this a price worth paying for the council gaining £50-100k. Will the council then provide extra traffic wardens on the Sunday to ensure the streets are safe? It seems the social consequences and inconvenience caused to residents and the community for charging on a Sunday far out ways the economic benefits. Personally I would want to see a very clear case for justifying charging on a Sunday which shows the benefits to the community as a whole. If extra revenue needs to be generated I would calculate how much current week day parking needs to increase to cover this although no one like price increases...

They would immensely impact my ability to attend church, as it would leave the only free parking down Plymouth Road, leading to Lady Boswell's, and this is already used by the rugby club on a Sunday morning, to the detriment of our parking.

I have noticed you are introducing charges for Sundays in the high street and I think it's disgusting. You are failing the community and the local businesses including tourism with your blatant greed. I am opposed to this outrageous idea and want to raise a formal objection and complaint in response to this madness. Local business should be your focus and not the locals who bother visiting the high street. I look forward to your excuses and expect the need to escalate this further.

Outrageous. So many small independent businesses have already been forced to leave the high st due to high rental charges, if you decide to start charging for parking on a Sunday it will result in even less custom for these already struggling business and more empty shops!

When we don't have to pay on Sundays we are reminded that life is ok and that the world is not as bad as it is portrayed by the press / media! We are reminded that there still are human beings with some heart in 'the system'. Life is so short and precious; moments like 'not having to pay for the parking' bring cheer to people and, for one day a week, and the other few days in the year, we can all breathe again and destress. So, for the sake of mankind, please go easy on how you squeeze us!

I think this proposal is a great shame. We want people to enjoy coming in to Sevenoaks town and not be put off. However we should all be diligent about parking within spaces and not straddled over lines .

Car parking prices are already excessive and if anything, to try to save the high street need to be reduced not also charged on a Sunday. I should state this change will not affect me as i always walk to town now as a) traffic management has been so poor and b) parking is too expensive. Nevertheless I do think a more enlightened approach is needed for the benefit of others.

I think car parking in Sevenoaks is really expensive and I would rather drive to Bluewater unless I am after something specific which I think is a shame.

I'm opposed to paying for Sunday parking in Blighes. The parking charges are already high and putting people of shopping in Sevenoaks high St. Sunday at least is free.

Absolutely appalling to introduce Sunday parking charges. I feel for the small, local businesses.

I disagree that parking cost should be added on Sundays to blighs. It will discourage people from using local independent shops and cafes.

I think it is completely unnecessary; I haven't found a proper reason to change the current scheme at all? Also, people will now park in front of residences instead of in the town itself which to me seems a lot more inconvenient for everyone involved. Also, it will probably lead to fewer people going into town and therefore less profit for retailers. And finally, I think it is already quite a nuisance how you you can, during the week, only park by the hour which make people end up paying far too much anyway and this newly proposed scheme to me only sounds like a way for the council to earn more money from parking fees and won't be of any advantage for residents.

Sundays should remain free. Otherwise I might as well drive to Bluewater to do my shopping, where I can park for free AND charge my electric car for free at the same time. There should be an incentive for people to come into Sevenoaks to spend their money and support local businesses. If Sunday parking charges are introduced, I would expect even more of the local businesses to shut on a Sunday, as some people, like me, won't come in if we had to pay for parking.
I do not agree with Sunday charges at Bligh's car park. The parking in Sevenoaks is already far more expensive than surrounding areas (Tonbridge for example) and the only 'perk' is free Sunday parking. Charging will make no difference with regards turnover of spaces because people shopping in Sevenoaks on a Sunday would only be there a short time anyway.
I disagree with the proposed parking changes. I feel Sevenoaks should continue to make Sunday special and not charge.
Sunday parking should remain free
A bad idea, it puts me off shopping and/or going to eat there if I have to pay to park! I will turn to bluewater instead where I know I can park for free.
I strongly disagree that parking charges would apply to Blighs Meadow from April. It is a great way to encourage use of shops and I personally find it very useful when popping in with my young children. I do not think anyone parks there all day and I have never found getting a space an issue.
Ridiculous. Parking in Sevenoaks is just getting higher and higher. Keep putting fees up, will lose people actually coming to Sevenoaks!
Ridiculous. People won't come and spend money in Sevenoaks now. I will go to Tonbridge or bluewater (free parking on Sundays). In fact, does anywhere charge on Sundays?!
The parking charges are already over the top and having an adverse affect on the high street shops and business. Why start charging more? What are you proposing to use the increased revenue for? I think even an introduction of 30mins/1 hour free parking would be better then putting charges in place thereafter would be more welcomed. Give a little and maybe just have a flat rate £1 fee for parking on a Sunday over and above 30 mins. Similar to the evenings. I think you would get more revenue this way as people would not mind paying £1 and most people don't stay in town for too long.
I feel the proposed Sunday charge is unnecessary and a real shame. The carpark is expensive enough Mon-Sat and I have never had an issue relating to the turn around of spaces. It could affect amount of business on a Sunday for local shops/ restaurants in the town. I believe it should remain free on a Sunday.
Awful idea, parking should be made more affordable to support local businesses
The high parking charges stop me using local shops in Sevenoaks during the week. I regularly use the Sunday free parking instead. You are killing local businesses and the town itself. Why?

<p>Okay except for the proposal to charge for parking in Blighs on Sunday. I have never had an issue with parking on Sundays and would be interested in seeing the data behind the decision shared with residents. Sunday is the one day a week that residents can at least enjoy the centre without thinking of charges which are already quite steep.</p>
<p>I think it is very sad that there will be a charge on Sundays. 1. I only pop to Marks and Spencer to get bits because it is free parking on a Sunday. You can never tell if they are going to have stock in so I will not bother paying to find out they do not have what I want when it is just a few bits in the food hall. 2. Several shops have stopped opening on a Sunday because of bad trade and small outlets have left the town. Sunday is a day for just pottering around for a card or a coffee and we will not bother now, May as well go to a larger town or free at the Nugent or Bluewater. Sevenoaks town visitors are only parking to spend money in the town, not tourists sightseeing.</p>
<p>Outrageously expensive for centre of town located parking and as you don't offer parent and child parking in any of your other car parks it feels like you are discriminating against families using the town on a Sunday. I don't understand why you need to make these changes to Sunday parking - are you trying to kill off the Sunday trade in town?</p>
<p>Shocking, absolutely unnecessary we should be encouraging people to come into Sevenoaks not going elsewhere. It's bad enough it being so expensive during the week & Saturday. My husband works in Sevenoaks & can't park there !!</p>
<p>We will not dine out in Sevenoaks for Sunday dinner as we often do - will select a pub with free parking</p>
<p>Ridiculous! Are you trying to drive all small businesses out of Sevenoaks????? What about the poor residents? Take a leaf out of Bluewater as that's where I will be shopping from now on</p>
<p>It's ridiculous. Exorbitant charges and the quickest way to destroy and close down all the high street stores. Already I try to get everything online or from stores where I get free parking. Council needs to encourage the growth of businesses and not closing them down.</p>
<p>I along with many others feel that if the parking charges are enforced on a Sunday, that this will have a negative impact on local businesses. You only have to look at the comments on the Sevenoaks Mum's Network to see how the proposed decision has been received. Many of us will instead go to other market towns with free parking or else Bluewater. Sevenoaks businesses will unfortunately be the losers in this.</p>
<p>Please don't charge on Sundays in Blighs car park - it will just push people to park on local residential streets instead.</p>
<p>It is appalling that Sevenoaks District Council is proposing putting charges on Sunday in Blighs car park. It will hurt local trade, especially the independent shops. Sevenoaks is a lovely place to live and shop but it won't be if parking charges drive shoppers away.</p>

A disgrace. Far too expensive. A disincentive to travel into Sevenoaks and shop there. Also a disincentive to visit Sevenoaks for a meal, especially in the evenings or at the weekend. Why bother when other places are free to park and there's less traffic?

Appalling! If you want Sevenoaks to thrive don't put parking charges in for Sunday's. People will go to bluewater and lakeside places that have a great shop selection and FREE PARKING!

I'm against introduction of charges for a Sunday. I fear the town's shops are already suffering, and taking away free parking on a Sunday would cause more damage. Also, unless you plan to provide more long stay parking places, you also need to consider the poor people who work in the shops. My 19-year old daughter has a part-time job in Sevenoaks. She often struggles to get a space in long stay, which then means great expense to pay to be at work. Or it means family disruption to take and collect her to and from work, even though she can drive! Currently, at least she doesn't have this stress on a Sunday.

I think it's absolutely shocking! You are strangling our town and small businesses with outrageous parking charges already! Blights is already stupidly expensive. Leave Sundays ALONE for goodness sake.

It's so expensive anyway that I would rather go to bluewater or shop on line. If I go into Sevenoaks I currently go on a Sunday to avoid these charges. It's the local shops that suffer

I think the proposal to introduce charging on Sundays will impact negatively on community activities such as the rugby club, leisure centre and church attendance, all of whom use the car parks. There will be a knock on effect on residents as attendees park on street instead of in the car parks. Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswells school already vie with the rugby club for parking on a Sunday morning and we encourage our congregation to use Blighs car park and walk through in order to avoid congestion. We have to park the school gate to prevent rugby club posting there, the is so much congestion. This proposal will make parking around Plymouth drive, knole way etc even worse. Someone from the council ought to come out there at 10 am on a Sunday morning and see the chaos.

I wouldn't call the introduction of full fees on a Sunday in Bligh's carpark a *minor* change. Bligh's is my preferred carpark as it has a few p&c spaces and is centrally located. If there are fees on a Sunday, I will think twice about bringing my family for our weekly lunch out. Living in a village, it only takes me a few minutes longer to drive to Bluewater than into Sevenoaks Without the benefit of free parking, I have less reason to support local businesses. I'll take advantage of the benefits Bluewater offers, instead.

We use blighs to park on a Sunday morning to attend church so that the church car park can be left for elderly and those with very young children. I am against the proposal to charge for blighs on a Sunday.

It is ridiculous to still charge on. Sunday, it is already expensive to go on a weekday and easier to go to bluewater when the parking is free, we like to support local businesses but it is already so high to even go on a weekday, this is affect everyone... pls do not do it!

It's a total disgrace. As a resident of Sevenoaks town centre, I have been on a waiting list for a parking permit for almost a year and haven't moved up that list one place in all that time. The one day a week I am able to park close to my home, making my life with a small baby that tiny bit more convenient than it is the remaining six days where I have to walk for over a mile with a screaming child to collect my car, is Sunday. Instead of raking in further profits and fleecing anybody who needs to park in the town centre with your absurdly inflated parking charges via Sunday charges, perhaps you should focus your efforts on rectifying the existing parking problems in sevenoaks town centre, either by culling the existing permits from the kind of people who maybe used to live in the centre of town but no longer do, yet continue to keep their permit or by actually building extra spaces to accommodate the growing population of residents in the town centre.

Absolutely disgraceful and discriminatory - taking away the availability of free parking for parents with young children. Forcing them to pay as there are no other child parking spaces within the town centre. You are also killing the town with your greed.

Parking charges are far too high already killing local businesses. To have parking charges Sunday too is absurd. Keep free parking in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

Great idea..... I like the extra free parking at the council offices. Well done

Preposterous! We already pay so much to park up in Sevenoaks during the week, Sunday is the one day I can come up to Sevenoaks and enjoy milling about town with my family. I support local businesses in that time, and feel they'd really struggle if you did this.

I am very opposed to your proposal to charge for parking in Blighs car park on Sundays. I already think the cost of parking there is extortionate during the week and charging for evenings should not have been introduced either. We are losing all the lovely independent shops and businesses in town which is what makes Sevenoaks a nice place to live, they are being replaced with big chain stores with no character. I believe this is partly due to the rates being charged and because people are being charged more and more to park in town to make use of these businesses. Please don't further ruin our lovely town by charging people to park on Sundays.

I object strongly and will no longer park in this car park on a Sunday nor use the shops there. I will probably visit bluewater or the Nugent estate instead.

I think they are already too expensive during the week which puts me off going in to the town and i think it would find a lot of businesses won't open on a Sunday if you enforce fees as most people won't go in to town or will park further out in residential areas so as not to have to pay I also think the council need to realise that yes Sevenoaks is a wealthy area but not everyone in sevenoaks is wealthy and the parking is geared towards people who are wealthy and it's unfair, we have a small town and are paying big city rates

Please don't charge for parking on Sunday it is the only day you can enjoy shopping in Sevenoaks for an extended period without paying high parking fees

I do not agree with the proposal to charge on a Sunday. I believe this will not encourage shoppers or restaurant/cafe goers to come to Sevenoaks. As a small town with not much open on a Sunday I think you are penalising both the retailers and those who don't live within walking distance of the town. I am fortunate to live within walking distance, however, with price tariffs on a Sunday this will push those who would normally park for free into those areas within walking distance. This then means no parking for those wishing to use facilities such as hollybush or local shops, once again penalising the local businesses.

This is a disgrace to the town. Sevenoaks receives ample funding from residents via parking charges and to hit residents/ visitors with yet more expense levies is disrespectful. Many people like using the central car park because they have small children or find it easier for mobility purposes (parent and child spaces are sorely lacking elsewhere). Is the council trying to kill local businesses and drive people to Bluewater? - because this is a good way to go about it!

I am unhappy about the change! Other rural towns such as Oxted do not pay for town parking at all and having to pay on a Sunday is very unhelpful and will ensure more people go to Bluewater and the town centre will receive much less customers.

Sevenoaks parking charges are already perceived to be high. My opinion is that this change will discourage shoppers further from a) parking in Blighs or b) using Sevenoaks town centre shops at all on a Sunday. It may also have an adverse effect on all other parking facilities in town. Such a shame....

I think it would be an awful shame to have to pay to park on a Sunday, there's only a handful of shops that actually open anyway so what are you paying for? It will just force locals to go else where. My family will not be coming in to town on Sundays if this goes a head.

Think the current fees are extortionate and encourage people to go elsewhere. There are few local businesses and steps like this make Sevenoaks less and less appealing both as a shopper and a business. Strongly disagree.

As a family of four we often go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday, shopping and going for lunch. The free parking is definitely an incentive for us. We've never had a problem getting a space, we generally use the Suffolk Way car park. Should a charge be introduced we wouldn't go into Sevenoaks as often and I'm sure we are not alone.

It would do the town a great disservice to introduce parking charges on a Sunday. The car parking during the week is ridiculously expensive and businessssss suffer as a consequence. It often makes more sense to drive to Bluewater where there are more choice of shops and parking is free! Especially as it's so expensive to park and the meters offer no change people feeling continually cheated. Are you trying to ruin Sevenoaks community entirely?
I think it's awful to have to pay to park on and Sunday only day you can get away with the extortionate prices we normally have to pay, give us a break
I think it's a terrible idea to charge for Sunday parking in Bligh's. It's the one chance we have to visit the shops without paying the ridiculously high charges that exist in the car park on other days. The shops are not that busy on Sundays and so you will destroy what trade they have. Restaurants will be affected too.
Not fair. Parking is too much. Should be a lower rate for Sundays
Parking charges are killing businesses in Sevenoaks, pushing people to go to out of town places like bluewater or tunbridge wells for shopping, eating out and cinema. Sevenoaks will be poorer if businesses close. I think this is very short sighted of the council who will have less income in the long run when Sevenoaks is not worth visiting for shopping etc. As it is, I only visit town for specific purposes and don't stay to browse, eat out etc as the cost of parking is too much. Parking should continue to be free in Blighs on a Sunday and your proposal to charge a significant amount is not acceptable.
You will be killing off the life of restaurants and bars with these charges.
Never mind the proposed parking charges but I as a resident locally never go into sevenoaks town to shop solely based on parking charges, the lack of spaces & the sizes of spaces. I've a vauxhall meriva and most times I have to knock my door on another car to get myself and toddler out of it. I'm all for shopping locally and supporting local businesses but the parking puts me off. Blighs should be split half for disabled badge holders free and other vehicles should use other car parks ie south park.
Unacceptable, there should not be any parking charges on a Sunday.
I am saddened that the council is trying to administer charges for Sunday parking... If it goes ahead, which I very much hope it does not, I do hope that local businesses do not suffer as a result. We all pay plenty enough for parking across Sevenoaks and Bligh's is expensive enough as it is!
Very annoyed. if I decide to drive (if I'm late, dentist/hair/doctors appt, going to carry heavy stuff or the weather is v bad or my children r ill) I will have to pay most of an hours wage on parking. Sevenoaks is an expensive place to live at it stands (lowered the rents) and it seems like you just want to take more off us. The least u can do is increase the bus service pls. A few more no 8 buses in an hour would be v helpful. Thank u Also do I want to put off people from shopping in Sevenoaks?

I head into Sevenoaks on a Sunday in order to avoid the extremely high charges in Blighs. Removing free parking in Blighs on a Sunday will reduce the number of free spaces available and cause chaos in those car parks where free parking is still available.
I am against them. The current charges are very expensive anyway and one day free parking makes a huge difference to both residents and local businesses.
I object to any charges being placed on Sunday parking. I think the parking charges in Sevenoaks are already too high and put me off visiting the town during the week and on Saturdays, hence I tend to visit on Sundays. If charges are enforced it will more economical for me to drive to another town or Bluewater where there are no parking charges
I think parking in Sevenoaks is expensive and personally it stops me shopping there as I can get to bluewater fairly quickly have more choice in shops and park for free. Charging for parking in a Sunday is also ludicrous as options are limited
The parking is already grossly over priced and discourages people including myself from evening going on to the high street. If Sunday's will now be charged too I won't be going into town at all. It's cheaper and easier to go to bluewater. This is a disgrace & it's ruining our high street.
So very wrong please don't kill our town any further , it is ridiculous to charge on a Sunday. You are just pushing people further out to blue water where it's free
I believe Sunday's should stay FOC. It's an incentive for people wanting to go out for dinner or a drink on a Saturday night to go to Sevenoaks, with the assurance they will be able to park their car in a safe car park overnight and not have to rush to collect it in the morning. It is something that Tunbridge Wells and other larger towns do not offer. It's not only good for Sevenoaks residence it is good for Sevenoaks businesses, otherwise people will start going to Tunbridge Wells or Maidstone where there is more options in restaurants, bars and pubs.
Your charges are already too high. Any increase is unacceptable and so is extending the tariff to Sundays unless your aim is actually to damage trade on Sevenoaks High Street.
Talk about killing a town centre. The charges are already too high. I try to avoid going into the town to shop anymore as the parking cost is out of control, especially in relation to the small amount of shops that are actually in town.
We have lost many small independent retailers from Sevenoaks over the last few years and I am convinced the high parking charges are a huge factor in this. Given the option many will choose other shopping destinations where parking is free or more reasonable. Free Sunday parking is a huge incentive for people to choose Sevenoaks as a shopping / eating out destination and by losing this Sevenoaks will just become a ghost town on a Sunday.

Ridiculous. Sevenoaks is only a small town and the shops needs its customers. Implementing these charges will have an impact on local business and less people will be willing to visit else and travel to other destinations for eating, shopping. The fees are extremly high. £10 for four hours parking is outrageous. If you have to implement parking fees they need to be dramatically reduced.

I will be shopping elsewhere if parking charges increase or become applicable.

Not supportive of this change - bad for residents, bad for businesses and bad for Sevenoaks.

It's not affordable as sometimes I go to town to shop in the cheap shops (charity or £1 shop) or have an orthodontist appointment which is aprox 1 hr long it costs me more to park than my shopping is! (U can never judge the ques or waiting times so always have to slow yourself extra time and half hour is simply not long enough!) town will loose slot of business busses would be cheaper and become over crowded! The meet ups for coffee with friends or family's would be less often as people would not want to pay then to top it all off those on benefits or low income would them struggle to afford what used to be free parking on Sundays!

I'm so disappointed to hear about the proposed changes to Sunday parking charges in Bligh's. As a mother of two small children, Sunday is the day we can all head into town to enjoy breakfast/lunch as a family, do a bit of shopping or head to the cinema for a Sunday afternoon film. I completely appreciate it represents a loss of revenue for Sevenoaks Council, but I strongly feel it would be a real loss for our community to no longer have access to central parking (essential when juggling pushchairs, scooters, shopping bags and wriggly toddlers) that doesn't have you checking your watch every 20 minutes. Parking in Sevenoaks Monday - Saturday is incredibly cost prohibitive, and genuinely affects my decisions about where to shop during the week; driving me online, or further afield. It would be really appreciated if you could consider the impact these proposed changes will have on the community and retailers in town as opposed to your profit margins.

This proposed change is very disappointing - at the moment we do actually pop in to our local shops & town on Sundays as we appreciate not having to pay the ridiculous parking charges that are there EVERY other day - even evenings. If these charges are upheld we will simply choose to shop elsewhere. Every time I park in another town or even London i am pleasantly surprised at how cheap the parking is by comparison - imagine how visitors to Sevenoaks view our town, they must think the Council is very greedy and probably do as I will do and shop elsewhere. Your job is to support local trade not drive it into the ground. No doubt though, your residents views will not be taken into account and this charge will be bulldozed through....disappointing to say the least!!

There is no need to increase Sunday parking space turnover in blighs. Adding (what are very expensive) car parking charges will be hugely detrimental to local independent businesses. Small businesses are already feeling the pinch, with increased supplier prices due to the fall in the value of sterling. Adding a parking fee on a Sunday also affects those on lower incomes, with disabilities and with young children who currently plan their visits to town around being able to park in the central blighs car park on a Sunday without the exorbitant fees. I think you would be surprised at just how many people this proposal would detrimentally affect.

Please don't introduce fees for parking at Blighs on Sundays - you are killing the Hig Street and local businesses! The average person wants to go for a coffee, shop and then lunch and you're making it unnecessarily expensive for them. And what about the poor shop workers who can't afford to park in town already! Please stop being greedy before you've completely killed off Sevenoaks Hig Street. Your proposals are the wrong thing to do for the community.

To whom it may concern, As a resident of Sevenoaks since 1989, I feel my views on the proposed parking charges are valid. There are many people including myself, who shop in the town on Sundays; purely because there are currently no parking charges. Many of us who work and reside in Sevenoaks are keen to support local businesses. The independent business owners struggle to survive on the High Street, this is not helped by the extortionate costs of parking. With the planned increase, Sevenoaks will suffer even further as people will no longer want to go to Sevenoaks to support the shops that are open on Sundays. Many of us enjoy breakfast, walks, shopping and family time in Sevenoaks on a Sunday. With the planned increase, I strongly feel that you will be putting yet another nail in the coffin of Sevenoaks high street. Over the years we have had a number of shops, restaurants, pubs close down. If you follow through with the proposed increase, I am confident there will be more closures and business losses. People will stop using the town on Sundays which will be a real shame. £5 for 3 hours, £10 for 4 hours any day of the week is unacceptable, but on Sundays it is outrageous. Please reconsider, don't take our free parking away from our community on Sundays.

Absolutely disgusting, you are killing our town, Sunday is a busy day in town, a nice day for a walk, lunch, shopping. If this is done I will no longer use my town, it would be cheaper in petrol to go to bluewater. You will also kill knole park.

I strongly disagree with making blighs a chargeable car park on Sundays. It is a very convenient car park for popping into town and encourages people to use the town on a Sunday. I feel this will have a detrimental effect on the footfall in the town and cause more small businesses to fail. There is no need to change this as you can always park and the charges are too much.

Free Sunday parking is hugely attractive to local residents in an otherwise hugely expensive car park. As the only car park with (albeit not enough) parent and child spaces I rely on using Blighs. However I will be put off using it on a Sunday if I have to pay this extortionate fee. Blighs is already the most expensive car park and I haven't noticed an issue with Sunday parking...this feels like a money-making exercise.

Free parking on Sundays encourages people to come into town for lunch and to visit the shops. Charging for Sundays will simply stop people coming into town and encourage even more people to go somewhere where they don't have to clock watch during a meal, or while watching a film. Bluewater will benefit from this short sighted fee extension. I think most residents have regarded the free parking on Sundays as payback for the high parking charges the rest of the week, and the ridiculous and unusual evening charges.

I think this is disgusting! I minimise the time I spend in Sevenoaks because of parking charges as it is! To say the increased charges on a Sunday is a 'minor' change is laughable. Do you really want to kill off Sevenoaks? You're going the right way to do just that!

The charges are ridiculous. The other car parks are tricky to use with a buggy and toddler. Sunday charging is going to kill business in Sevenoaks when it's just starting to get buzzy on a Sunday. It's lovely to go out for a spot of lunch at the nearby restaurants. You make enough money during the week from Blighs. If you must charge maybe £1 for 4hrs or something. It will also affect the pubs on a Sat night as lots of people leave their cars there and get a taxi home knowing that they can pick it up when sober the next day.

I do not think it is right for the council to be charging people to park on Sundays. This is the one day where people get to shop without the worry of the added cost of parking, Blighs car park is already the most expensive one out of them all and I avoid at all costs. This is except Sunday's where I regularly go shopping and support the local businesses because of the free parking. As a Sevenoaks resident I think already pay enough without the added charges of parking on Sundays. The council has already increased the evening rate to £1.50 instead of £1.

Sevenoaks car parking prices are already much higher than most other boroughs. The one gesture of good will you offered (free parking on a Sunday). Is now being taken away. Disgusting and greedy. £10 for 4 hours is ridiculous. How about trying to help the local businesses a little and not putting people off coming into town for coffee or lunch because they can not afford to park!!!

Preposterous. It will stop me shopping in town on a Sunday, which I do simply because it's cheaper so to do than during the week. No more using The Stag, going for lunch with the family in the town, browsing with my daughter before meeting up with the Sevenoaks Rugby boys for coffee. Nipping for top up shops in M&S. Hello - just avoid.

I think its absolutely disgusting that you are planning on charging for parking on Sundays. They have always been free and this should not change. Your ridiculous prices are already stopping lots of people from shopping in Sevenoaks and supporting our local town (I for one would sooner travel to Orpington for the cinema rather than the Stag Theatre due to the parking charges). This really does sadden me, however, your prices are just crazy. We have lots of independent shops in Sevenoaks and you are just ruining their trade with these prices. Perhaps you could do more to fine people that park in the mother and baby spaces when they don't have children rather than putting this pricing structure in place! I don't agree with charging to park on Sunday's - it's bad enough prices to pay for the rest of the time and you are just driving people to Bromley, Bluewater and other areas where parking is much cheaper!

Inforceing parking charges on a Sunday will have a detrimental effect on the town. We have had so many business close down over the years, and this Sunday parking will just further reduce the custom to the town. Parking charges are already high, which is why a lot of us chose go on a Sunday to save on parking costs. I am aware there are other car parks but these are not as convient, especially for those of us with young children.

I think getting rid of the free parking on Sundays is ridiculous. Never mind charging people the same as the rest of the week. Our town is dying. Business don't want to open in our town because people can't afford to park, half the time, for longer than an hour. So they use Sundays to come up. Myself and family members included. The current prices are also disgusting.

Very disappointed to see the proposed introduction of parking charges in Bligh's car park on Sundays. The free parking at this location is a major incentive for Sunday shopping in Sevenoaks town centre for me, and for many other local residents too. For parents with young children, like myself, the central location of this car park along with the parent and child parking offering makes it a much more convenient and practical parking choice. For this I am prepared to pay the higher level of parking fees during the week and on Saturdays, but feel it is discriminatory to charge for parking here on Sundays when it will remain free in other car parks.

With regard to the proposed Sunday charging at Blighs car park in town, I would like to register that I'm totally against the charge and I think it should remain free to park there on a Sunday - but as a compromise maybe with a 2 hour limit rather than 4 hours to ensure that there is a turnover of parking available. I also think that it should be free to park there on public bank holidays. With so many coffee shops, it's nice to be able to go into town to browse around and have a drink/something to eat without having to think of the extra cost of parking, and that's particularly nice to be able to do that on a Sunday, because we pay enough to be able to use that particular car park on other days of the week. I think that if a charge is introduced in Blighs then it won't be long until other car parks in the town become the same and it will put people off visiting the town when there are other options (such as going to Bluewater) with free or cheaper car parking.

This will ruin the town! People come for coffee, leisurely lunches and a browse around on a Sunday. They don't do that now if they have to pay to park. This really is an outrage, for whatever reason you've decided to do this, it's not a good enough one!

Charging on a Sunday for Blight seems a little short sighted as it will just cause overcrowding in the other car parks and may drive people to Bluewater etc instead if they can't find a free space. Why don't you bring back Park and Ride?

I am against it. I used to pop into Sevenoaks at least 5 times a week for a coffee or to top up shopping, amble along the high street and wander in and out of the shops. The parking costs have escalated to such a degree I now only go to Sevenoaks maybe once a week and then generally on a Sunday so as not to pay the exorbitant parking fees. To charge for parking, even only at Blighs, will further push me to shop elsewhere. The reason for this being as that by charging to park at Blighs the majority of shoppers will attempt to park in the other 'free' parking areas which are already unpleasantly busy. I went to Oxted the other day as needed something there specifically and what a pleasure. Free parking in a large parking area just off the high street. And the funny thing was it was a Saturday morning.

Applying charges on a Sunday is going to make no difference to the busyness of the car park, I think it is ridiculous that you are thinking of applying charges. It's Sunday! People still need to spend time in town at the weekend and that won't change just because you are charging a stupid amount of money! It's just another way of the council making more money. We need bigger car parks and more all-day car parks at cheaper prices. Not everyone that lives in Sevenoaks is loaded.

Expensive for Sunday parking as many shops do not open. Will not continue to visit the town if these changes happen.

The close proximity of Blue Water and other larger out of town retail options all offering free parking, coupled with the ease of travelling to London with a huge variety of entertainment, retail and more makes this a short sighted and very unwise move. Everyone knows that parking charges hurt local businesses, and drive residents to consider other out of town choices. Why go to The Stag Theatre / Cinema when I can go to Tunbridge Wells with more choice and park for free? Why shop in our town, when I can go to Blue Water and again have more choice and park for free? It is actions like this and many similar that are destroying our high street and sucking the soul out of the town. It is bad enough that local businesses and services have to contend with inflexible and high business rates and fierce competition from online eTailers. If anything the council should be looking to extend the free parking periods and perhaps introducing 15-20 minute free parking places to encourage more use of local businesses. The parking policy of the council is both draconian in policing and unimaginative in execution. I'd be very happy to expand my thoughts for the creation of a vibrant town centre that benefits all.

WTC are happy with SDC's proposal of freezing charges in all of its car parks in Sevenoaks, Swanley and Westerham from next April and that all season tickets, permits and vouchers will remain the same price too. WTC also supports free parking being preserved on street and in all other car parks in Sevenoaks town to help workers in the Town. We do not feel able to comment on bringing in Sunday charges to Blighs car park.

Why is there a surcharge to pay by phone?

I totally object to introducing Sunday charges in Blighs. Completely unnecessary and unwelcome.

We desperately need increased numbers of low cost parking - the proposed multi-story car park outside the Sencio centre is a great idea. Night time charges need to be scrapped and Sunday should remain free - those charges already do mean I sometimes go elsewhere than Sevenoaks. Otherwise: £1 an hour just seems a bit expensive - not for shopping but eating and leisure activities - 30 min is fine but I never use it as it is never long enough.

Jesus, stop it will you. Free parking on Sundays and evenings after 6 is a must. You have allowed the high street to be overrun with hairdressers (average appointment time for ladies is between 2-3hours) restaurants (average dinning experience is 2-3hours) coffee shops (average stay 1-2hours), so short term parking will soon become redundant! It should be free for the first 30minutes, this will encourage short term - not increasing parking charges which are already astronomical! If you increase charges for long term parking then surely all the restaurants and hairdressers you have allowed to overrun the high street will soon not turn enough profit to cover the astronomical rates you charge!

Areas for consideration: Review of Fees and Charges 2017-18				
Off Street				
			Current	Revised
1A	Blighs	Up to 30 mins	70p	No Change
		Up to 1 hr	£1.50	
		Up to 2 hrs	£3	
		Up to 3 hrs	£5	
		Up to 4 hrs	£10	
		Evening	£1	
		Sundays – Up to 4 hrs	4 hours max stay	
1B	Buckhurst 1 South Park Suffolk Way	Up to 1 hr	£1	No Change
		Up to 2 hrs	£2	
		Up to 3 hrs	£3	
		Up to 4 hrs	£4	
		Up to 5 hrs	£4.50	
		Evening	£1	
1C	Buckhurst 2 Weekdays	All day	£4.60	
		Evening	£1	
	Buckhurst 2 Saturdays	Up to 1 hr	£1	
		Up to 2 hrs	£2	
		Up to 3 hrs	£3	
		Up to 4 hrs	£4	
		Over 4 hours and all day	£4.60	
		Evening	£1	
	Buckhurst 2 and South Park Season Tickets	Annual Season Ticket	£859	
		Quarterly Season Ticket	£224.75	
		Resident Permit	£35	
1D	Council Offices	Saturdays & Sundays	Free	
2A	St Johns St James	Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hr	40p	
		Up to 2hrs	60p	
		Up to 4 hrs	£1	
		Over 3 hrs and all day	£3.10	
		Annual Season Ticket	£429	
		Quarterly Season Ticket	£117.25	
		Resident Permit	£35	
2B	Bradbourne	All day	£7	
		After 3pm up to 6.30pm	£1.50	
	Bradbourne Season	Annual Season Ticket	£1,110	
		Quarterly Season Ticket	£287.50	
2C	Sennocke	All day	£7	
		Up to 2 hrs	£1	
		After 3pm up to 6.30pm	£1.50	
	Sennocke Season Tickets	Annual Season Ticket	£1,150	
		Quarterly Season Ticket	£297.50	

Areas for consideration: Review of Fees and Charges 2016-17				
Off Street (continued)				
2D	Bevan Place Park Road (not all day) Station Road	Up to 30 mins	30p	No Change
		Up to 1 hr	50p	
		Up to 2 hrs	70p	
		Up to 4 hrs	£1.10	
		Over 4 hrs and all day	£4	
2E	Bevan Place Season Tickets	Annual Season Ticket	£396	
		Quarterly Season Ticket	£109	
2F	Darent	Up to 30 mins	Free	
		Up to 1 hr		
		Up to 2 hrs		
		Up to 3 hrs		
		Up to 4 hrs	£1.50	
		Over 4 hrs and all day	£3.50	
2G	Quebec Avenue	Up to 15 mins	10p	
		Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hr	50p	
		Up to 2 hrs	70p	
		Up to 4 hrs	£1.20	
		Over 4 hrs and all day	£3.10	
2H	Vicarage Hill	Up to 15 mins	10p	
		Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hr	60p	
		Up to 2 hrs	£1.50	

Areas for consideration: Review of Fees and Charges 2016-17				
On Street				
			Current	Revised
3A	High Street London Road South Park	Up to 30 mins	40p	50p
		Up to 1 hour	80p	£1
		Up to 2 hours	£1.40	£2
		Sunday	2 hours max stay	
3B	Sevenoaks Town Holly Bush Lane Plymouth Drive	Up to 30 mins	20p	No Change
		Up to 1 hour	60p	
		Up to 2 hours	£1.30	
		Over 2 hrs and all day	£3	
3C	Sevenoaks Station Moorwood Close (West)	Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hour	60p	
		Up to 2 hours	£1.30	
		Up to 4 hours	£2.40	
3D	Sevenoaks Station St Botolphs Ashley Close Moorwood Close (East)	Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hour	60p	
		Up to 2 hours	£1.30	
		Up to 4 hours	£2.40	
		Over 4 hrs and all day	£5.50	
3E	Sevenoaks District Resident Parking Permits	First	£35	
		Second	£70	
		Third	£125	
		Fourth	£250	
3F	Resident Visitors	Book of 5	£6	
3G	Non-Resident Parking	Town Annual	£270	
		Town Half Yearly	£135	
		Town Quarterly	£67.50	
		Station (West) Annual	£765	
		Station (West) Half Yearly	£382.50	
		Station (West) Quarterly	£191.25	
		Station (East) Annual	£650	
		Station (East) Half Yearly	£325	
		Station (East) Quarterly	£162.50	
4A	Knockholt	All Day	£3.50	
		After 2pm up to 6pm	£2.40	
4B	Swanley Station Azalea Road Godsel Road	Up to 30 mins	20p	
		Up to 1 hour	60p	
		Up to 2 hours	£1.30	
		Up to 4 hours	£2.40	
		Over 4 hrs and all day	£3.50	
4C	Westerham On Street The Green The Grange Market Square	15 minutes	10p	
		30 minutes	20p	
		1 hour	60p	
		2 hours	£1.50	
4D	Westerham On Street Fullers Hill Croydon Road	15 minutes	10p	
		30 minutes	20p	
		1 hour	60p	
		2 hours	£1.50	
		3 hours	£2.50	

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Item 7 - Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) - Housing Provision

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 28 February 2017. The relevant Minute extract was not available prior to the printing of this agenda and will follow when available.

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SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RELOCATION SCHEME (SVPRS) - HOUSING PROVISION

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of Chief Officer Communities & Business

Status For Decision

Also considered by Housing and Health Advisory Committee - 28 February 2017

Key Decision No

Executive Summary: This report sets out information about a vacant six bedroom social housing property and seeks approval to work with West Kent Housing Association to make the property available for a Syrian refugee family, as part of the Kent Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS).

This report supports the Key Aim of safe and caring communities and healthy environment

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Michelle Lowe

Contact Officers Lesley Bowles, Ext 7335

Hayley Brooks, Ext 7272

Recommendation to Housing and Health Advisory Committee:

For consideration and to note the report.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

Members are asked to approve that officers work with West Kent Housing Association to make available a vacant six bedroom adapted social housing property in Eynsford to resettle a suitable Syrian refugee family as part of the Kent SVPRS.

Reason for recommendation:

This Council has been asked to pledge support to resettle identified Syrian families as part of the Kent Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, if suitable accommodation and support services are available.

Members are asked to consider offering a six bed WHKA social housing property in Eynsford to a Syrian refugee family, if a suitable family can be identified. Suitability will be based on whether the property location, adaptations and other

required support services are available to meet their needs.

Introduction and Background

- 1 In response to the current crisis in Syria, the Government set up the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) in February 2014. This scheme involves taking identified vulnerable refugees straight from the Middle East and resettling them in the UK. The refugees are given five years Humanitarian Leave to Remain and as such are able to work and claim benefits and other public funds from day one.
- 2 On 7 September 2015, the Prime Minister announced that SVPRS will be expanded so that 20,000 people will be assisted under the scheme by the end of the Parliament in 2020. Local authorities are key to the delivery of this offer. The scheme is currently voluntary and dependent on local authorities agreeing to take part. To date, over 10 families have been resettled by Kent district councils in partnership with Kent County Council as part of the Kent scheme.
- 3 To date this Council has not pledged to resettle any families due to the lack of suitable private rented housing. Officers continue to work with Kent partners, local church organisations, voluntary sector, housing associations and private landlords to identify housing opportunities to resettle families in this District.
- 4 As part of the Scheme, the Home Office requires local authorities to provide resettlement support for at least one year using the funding provided for each family, with housing for five years. The support involves assisting families to resettle into the UK, helping them to access all the appropriate services and fully integrating them into their community.

West Kent Housing Association (WKHA) property

- 5 An opportunity has arisen to provide a social housing property owned by West Kent Housing Association in this District. This property is a six bedroom semi-detached property in Eynsford village. The property has been specially adapted some time ago with wheelchair ramp access and extended to include a ground floor bedroom with its own bathroom and flush floor shower. WKHA have stated that the property does require some updating and modernisation to improve the living conditions.
- 6 The property has been empty since 22 February 2016 with WKHA unable to identify a local housing need for this six bed adapted property. Of the current 758 people on the Sevenoaks District Housing Register there is no one who has a six bedroom need, only one person who requires a five bedroom property and a further 17 people requiring a 4 bedroom property. The additional costs for under occupation for this size of property means that this property is unaffordable to smaller families locally.

- 7 This Council has currently not been approached by any private landlord or church organisations offering suitable family sized properties to resettle refugee families. Housing Syrian refugee families in private rented accommodation would normally be the first choice as part of the resettlement scheme, to ensure that the local need for social housing is not ceded to accommodate refugee families. However on this occasion, no local need for this type and size of property can be identified, either within the District or across Kent.
- 8 West Kent Housing Association is working closely with this Council to consider alternative options for this home as they can not continue to sustain ongoing void costs associated with the lack of rental income on this property. It is been used on occasions as emergency temporary accommodation. As part of these options the following have already been considered:
- Conversion to create two smaller properties - WKHA have stated that this is not practical due to the layout of the rooms or financially viable to convert this property.
 - Sell the property on the open market - WKHA could sell the property on the open market. This would result in the loss of a large family sized social housing property in this District. WKHA are not obliged to reinvest the money from this sale back into this District.
 - Offer it to other districts to meet their need - this property has been offered to other neighbouring district councils, and across Kent, as part of a reciprocal arrangement. No other district has a housing need on their Housing Register for a six bed adapted property.

Opportunities for Resettlement in this Property

- 9 The recommendation set out in this report would enable this adapted family home to remain within the social housing allocation for Sevenoaks District and be used to resettle a vulnerable Syrian refugee family as part of the Kent SVPR Scheme.
- 10 The family would remain at this property for a five year period, as part of their Humanitarian consent, and be able to work and claim benefits as required immediately, providing WKHA with the necessary sustained rental income for this period. The property could then be re-assessed at this point to establish whether a local need has arisen or to reconsider alternative options based on the housing market at that time.
- 11 The availability of this empty property, with no local need, enables this Council to contribute to the efforts of the Kent SVPR Scheme, to which we have not been able to pledge our support to date due to the lack of housing availability.
- 12 This Council would work closely with partner organisations including church groups, voluntary sector, KCC and contracted providers already in place to

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offer ongoing support to the family so they can access local schools, health services, social care, support services and English tuition, as part of the co-ordinated Scheme. Our HERO Officers would also be able to assist the family with access to other localised support and council services including benefits, council tax, community interventions, retraining and employment services.

- 13 This Council would work closely with KCC and the Home Office to identify the most suitable family for this adapted property and based on its rural location in Eynsford village. The KCC Co-ordinator confirms that this has occurred elsewhere in the county when the location, type of property and support requirements are only suitable for particular families, particularly when a property is within a rural location with limited transport and access links.
- 14 This Council would have access to local authority funding, provided by the Home Office, for support services, with additional funding available for education and any required health and medical care costs. Extra funding may be available in exceptional cases towards updating the property, additional adaptations and to cover immediate property void costs to enable it to remain empty until a suitable family is allocated to this home.

The challenges for Resettlement in this Property

- 15 The village of Eynsford is a rural location and although it has a train station with trains going to Sevenoaks, Swanley and London, a primary school and some local shops, it has limited access to a main town via public transport which could result in the family feeling isolated. Local community networks are strong and would be needed to help the family to adjust to life within a rural community, as well as the support worker who would be assigned to work with the family on an ongoing basis.
- 16 Eynsford village is one of the less ethnically diverse wards in the District with a population of 1,814, 2.5% of which is from a BME background. In comparison, the BME data for some of the neighbouring wards is: 2.1% Kemsing, 2.3% Otford & Shoreham and 3.9% Farningham, Horton Kirby & South Darenth, and 4.8% for the overall District (Data source: 2011 Census).
- 17 It is recognised that the ethnic diversity of the District is limited at the moment. With 'Right to Buy' bringing an increasing number of family homes onto the market, over time it is likely that we will continue to see changes in the population make up of our villages in particular.

Key Implications

Financial

- 18 Currently, the Council has made no commitment to take part in the main SVPR scheme. If this Council participates in the Kent SVPRS, it would receive the local authority tariff from the Home Office to cover the costs for supporting the resettlement of families.

Resource (non financial)

- 19 If this Council pledges to support the resettlement of a family in this District, Officer and partner resources would be required to meet the support and housing requirements, including HERO Officers to support the family. This Council's existing strong partnerships with local key agencies, the voluntary sector and local community groups would be needed to support the family and this work.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 20 These would need to be assessed as part of the detailed planning to take any recommended actions forward as part of this work.

Equality Assessment

- 21 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) the Council must have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.
- 22 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out. The decisions recommended through this paper will assist vulnerable families.

Conclusions

- 23 This Council has not been in a position to consider housing a refugee family as part of the Kent Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme due to the lack of available and suitable housing. West Kent Housing Association has been unable to let a six bedroom adapted property in Eynsford for the past year and is considering selling the property. As no local need can be found for this property, this enables the Council working with West Kent Housing Association the opportunity to house a family under the Kent Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

Appendices

Background Papers Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement (VPR) Programme
- Guidance for local authorities and partners (28 October 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472020/Syrian_Resettlement_Fact_Sheet_gov_uk.pdf

Lesley Bowles
Chief Officer Communities & Business

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Item 8 - Sevenoaks Leisure Centre - Application for a loan by Sencio Community Leisure

The attached report was considered by the Finance Advisory Committee on 31 January 2017, and Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 28 February 2017. The relevant Minute extract from Housing & Health Advisory Committee was not available prior to the printing of this agenda and will follow when available, however the minute from Finance Advisory Committee is detailed below:

Finance Advisory Committee - 31 January 2017 (Minute 44)

The Chief Officer Communities and Business presented the report which Sencio have brought forward proposals for works to Sevenoaks Leisure Centre to take advantage of unmet latent demand in the town. Members are asked to agree a 10 year loan of £600,000 for Sencio at an interest rate of 6% per annum, in line with the Council's Property Investment Strategy.

It was noted that the proposed terms would keep the Council protected, and the loan would see improvements for Sencio's business and Sevenoaks residents.

Jane Parish, Chief Executive of Sencio was present and answered more detailed questions on the proposed redevelopment.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that Sencio be granted a loan of £600,000 over ten years at an interest rate of 6% per annum under the terms set out below

'That the agreed works will be recorded by way of a Licence for Alterations. The Licence will set out the terms for the works, and it is recommended that these will include:

- That the improvements will be made to the Council's satisfaction;
- That the works be carried out in accordance with any statutory requirements, the cost of which need to be met by Sencio prior to any work commencing;
- Sencio will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of and repairs to the works covered by the loan;
- At the end of the current lease in 2029, the Council will not be liable to pay Sencio for the improvements made.

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- In the event that Sencio defaults on its loan repayment for the works, the Council will look to declare Sencio insolvent and thereby in breach of the lease and, subject to the Court's relief, terminate the same. This will be actioned if Sencio makes one loan repayment in excess of 30 days late or three loan repayments in excess of one day late.'

SEVENOAKS LEISURE CENTRE - APPLICATION FOR A LOAN BY SENCIO COMMUNITY LEISURE

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of Chief Officer - Communities & Business

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Finance Advisory Committee - 31 January 2017
 Housing & Health Advisory Committee - 28 February 2017

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: Sencio Community Leisure have brought forward plans for works to Sevenoaks Leisure Centre to extend the gym in order to take advantage of unmet latent demand for fitness in Sevenoaks. Members are asked to agree a loan to Sencio of £600,000 over ten years at an interest rate of 6% per annum.

This report supports the Key Aim of reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for all.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Michelle Lowe, Cllr. John Scholey

Contact Officer Simon Davies, Ext. 7374

Recommendation to Finance Advisory Committee:

That Members recommend to Cabinet that Sencio be granted a loan of £600,000 over ten years at an interest rate of 6% per annum under the terms set out at Paragraph 29.

Recommendation to Housing & Health Advisory Committee:

That Members recommend to Cabinet that Sencio be granted a loan of £600,000 over ten years at an interest rate of 6% per annum under the terms set out at Paragraph 29.

Recommendation to: Cabinet:

- a) That Members agree a loan of £600,000 over ten years to Sencio at an interest rate of 6% per annum and;
 - b) That Members delegate powers to Officers to draft a loan agreement and License for Alteration in accordance with the recommendations set out at paragraph 29.
-

Reason for recommendation: The gym at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre does not currently have sufficient capacity to take advantage of the numbers wishing to use it. The proposed works to Sevenoaks Leisure Centre will allow Sencio to take advantage of unmet latent demand in the town and to make improvements to the building, which is owned by the Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The original Sevenoaks Swimming Centre, which dated from the 1980s, was developed into a leisure centre by the construction of an extension to incorporate a 38 station fitness suite, health suite and a dance studio. The extended leisure centre was opened in February 2001.
- 2 Sencio Community Leisure, a not-for-profit leisure trust, was set up in 2004 and Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, along with Edenbridge and White Oak Leisure Centres and Lullingstone Park Golf Course, was transferred to Sencio on a 25 year lease, which is due to expire in 2029.
- 3 In 2008, Sencio undertook works to Sevenoaks Leisure to increase capacity at the gym. The health suite was removed and replaced by changing rooms and the fitness gym was extended to include 60 stations. The cost of these works was funded by a loan from this Council of £250,000 over ten years. Sencio will finish paying this loan in 2018.
- 4 Over the last few years, the gym at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre has become very busy with customers having to wait to use specific pieces of equipment.
- 5 Sencio's current membership of 2,200 results in a ratio of 37 members per station, which is in excess of the Sports England recommended 25-30 members per station.
- 6 Sencio have been exploring options for extending the number of stations to relieve pressure on stations and to take advantage of latent demand for fitness in the Sevenoaks area.
- 7 Sencio have developed a proposal with Createability, a design and construction company who specialise in leisure refurbishments, for works to extend the refurbish and extend the current gym at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.
- 8 Sencio are asking Sevenoaks District Council for a loan of £600,000 to fund the building works at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

Leisure In Depth Scrutiny

- 9 The Leisure In Depth Scrutiny Working Group considered whether Sencio offered value for money and what areas of cost could be reduced.
- 10 The Working Group considered that there were a number of positive aspects to the provision of leisure services by Sencio. Sencio's management fee had reduced by 84% between 2004 and 2015, whilst usage had risen by 4.3%.

Sencio had made investments to improve the leisure offer in the District and maximise their income. Sencio's Sales Manager had made significant changes to drive up memberships and maximise income. Sencio had undertaken measures to reduce head office and other costs.

- 11 However, taking into account Sencio's efforts to increase its income and reduce its costs, the sub-committee did not consider that Sencio offered good value for money to the Council as they had failed to ensure that their income significantly outweighed their operating costs. Scrutiny Committee on 5 July, resolved that Cabinet review the management and asset management fees paid to Sencio and consider whether the Council could more effectively carry out the outreach element of the Sports Development function while retaining part of the management fee.
- 12 Cabinet, on 15 September 2016, discussed the report and resolved that the report be referred to the Housing and Health Advisory Committee.
- 13 Housing & Health Advisory Committee, on 4 October 2016, resolved that the management and asset management fees paid to Sencio be considered. Subsequently, a reduction in management fees was put forward as a budget saving for 2017/18 onwards.

Proposed Works

- 14 A copy of Sencio's proposal is set out at Appendix A. Sencio proposes the following works at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre:
 - Conversion of the existing little used toddler pool into a new dance studio/multi-use space with storage.
 - Conversion of redundant spa area into dedicated changing areas - male and female;
 - Conversion of existing changing areas into downstairs fitness gymnasium (free weights/functional);
 - Refurbishment of existing dance studio and new access corridor to new dance studio;
 - Refurbishment of existing fitness gymnasium and disabled change;
 - Refurbishment of first floor corridor to existing fitness gymnasium;
 - Development of new corridor to existing teaching pool;
 - New flooring to reception and catering area;
 - Provision of new fitness equipment (100 stations).

Latent Demand

- 15 In 2014, SDC commissioned The Sports Consultancy Ltd (SCL) to undertake a business case review for the extension of the gym at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.
- 16 The report profiled consumers on a postcode basis and their propensity to join health and fitness clubs. It considered any competing facilities in the catchment area and enabled a detailed estimate of the likely overall membership targets to be defined.
- 17 The study identifies a latent demand for the area of 2,900. Sencio's current gym membership at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre stands at 2,200. The unmet latent demand in the Sevenoaks area is 700.
- 18 Sencio's Business Plan is based on a net gain of 513 new members by year 3 of the plan.

Project Funding

- 19 The total cost of the building works at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre is £ 681,716 including VAT. Createability guaranteed this price up to December 2016 and indicated that 2% per quarter will need to be added for inflation purposes. Therefore, from January 2017, the total cost of the building work will be £695,350.
- 20 Following the demolition of Raley's gym, the Section 106 planning agreement has identified £95,000 to be made available by Sevenoaks Town Council to support leisure provision elsewhere in the town. The Town Council has confirmed that the £95,000 will be provided towards this project.
- 21 Sencio are asking the Council for a loan of £ 600,000 to fund the building work.
- 22 The cost of new fitness equipment, free weights etc for the gym will be £286,000 excluding VAT. This equipment will be leased and financed by Sencio.
- 23 A summary of the funding for the refurbishment is as follows:

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (based on the contract being issued before 31 March 2017)

	£000
Total cost of building works, inc. VAT	695
Cost of new fitness equipment, exc. VAT	286
TOTAL	981

PROPOSED FUNDING FOR PROJECT

	£000
Cost of equipment leasing to be met by Sencio	286
Sevenoaks Town Council Section 106 funding	95
Requested loan from SDC	600
TOTAL	981

Key ImplicationsFinancial

- 24 The income and expenditure figures included in the cash flow statement show that the additional income from users is more than the annual costs incurred for additional running costs and loan repayments.
- 25 The loan would be issued at an interest rate of 6% per annum to be repaid over 10 years. The interest rate has been set at 6% per annum to ensure that Council funds are achieving the same return as if they had been invested using the Property Investment Strategy. The current average return from Treasury investments is 0.5%.
- 26 The funding for this project will not come from the Council's Property Investment Strategy funds, nor is the project being undertaken as part of the Property Investment Strategy.
- 27 Based on the expected additional income levels, the cost of the works will adequately increase the value of Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 28 Under the terms of their lease, Sencio will need consent from this Council as the landlord for any alterations or additions in relation to activities consistent with the Permitted Use of the building as a leisure centre.
- 29 The agreed works will be recorded by way of a Licence for Alterations. The Licence will set out the terms for the works, and it is recommended that these will include:
- That the improvements will be made to the Council's satisfaction;

Agenda Item 8

- That the works be carried out in accordance with any statutory requirements, the cost of which need to be met by Sencio prior to any work commencing;
- Sencio will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of and repairs to the works covered by the loan;
- At the end of the current lease in 2029, the Council will not be liable to pay Sencio for the improvements made.
- In the event that Sencio defaults on its loan repayment for the works, the Council will look to declare Sencio insolvent and thereby in breach of the lease and, subject to the Court's relief, terminate the same. This will be actioned if Sencio makes one loan repayment in excess of 30 days late or three loan repayments in excess of one day late.

Equality Assessment

- 30 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.
- 31 Health and wellbeing activities at Sevenoaks leisure centre are open to all residents. Some restrictions may apply to certain activities and pieces of equipment in the gym due to age or pregnancy/maternity. The proposed alterations to the leisure centre will allow more capacity for residents to access the service.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

- 32 Sencio has robust arrangements in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 33 The alterations proposed by Sencio will make improvements to the leisure centre.
- 34 The proposed works will provide additional capacity for local residents and community groups to use the leisure centre. Additional capacity at the leisure centre will enable Sencio to better assist community groups and to support health and wellbeing initiatives.
- 35 Officers will produce a communications plan to ensure that members of the public are aware of the improvements.

Conclusions

- 36 Sencio have brought forward proposals for works to Sevenoaks Leisure Centre to take advantage of unmet latent demand in the town. Members are asked to agree a loan of £600,000 for Sencio at an interest rate of 6% per annum, in line with the Council's Property Investment Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix A - Sencio proposal for Sevenoaks Leisure Centre and Business Plan.

Background Papers:

Sevenoaks Leisure Centre Business Case Review
(Appendix A)

Lesley Bowles - Chief Office Communities & Business
Adrian Rowbotham - Chief Finance Officer

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SEVENOAKS LEISURE CENTRE PROPOSED FITNESS GYMNASIUM REFURBISHMENT

INTRODUCTION

The leisure centre in Sevenoaks was developed by providing an extension to the existing Sevenoaks Swimming Centre in May 2000. Part of the extension included a health and fitness suite (fitness gymnasium, health suite and dance studio) which was developed from the old swimming centre reception area and changing rooms. These facilities were opened in February 2001.

In 2008, in order to meet customer demand, the health suite was removed, and replaced by changing rooms enabling the fitness gymnasium on the upper floor to be expanded to accommodate 60 stations an increase of 22 stations. The increase in the fitness gymnasium has resulted in membership numbers increasing 57% on the 2008 figure to circa 2200. The development was funded by the Council providing a loan of £250k to Sencio. This loan will be fully paid by 2018.

The leisure centre has operated successfully providing a range of sports, leisure, and health and fitness activities for the local community. Currently, approximately 70 fitness classes a week are run at the centre, which together with the fitness gymnasium generated 126,953 visits in 2015.

Nationally the health and fitness market has risen significantly over the last 10 years and both the private sector and the local authority/Trust sector recognise the importance of being able to serve the fitness needs of their communities. The health and fitness market is also an important commercial aspect of the leisure market and enables other more social activities such as swimming to be offered at realistic and often subsidised rates. It is predicted that the demand for health and fitness activities will continue to grow.

The existing fitness suite at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre is now 8 years old and in order to keep its position as a prominent provider of health and fitness and meet customer expectations it is imperative that the area is refurbished.

The proposed refurbishment project will not only enable Sevenoaks to maintain its market share but will also enable this share to grow and increase the revenue that can be generated from this area.

Being conscious of keeping any development within the fabric of the existing building and causing the least disruption to customers, the proposed refurbishment will involve:

- Conversion of the existing toddler pool into a new dance studio/ multi use space with storage
- Conversion of redundant spa area into dedicated changing areas – male and female
- Conversion of existing changing areas into downstairs fitness gymnasium (free weights/functional)
- Refurbishment of existing dance studio and new access corridor to new dance studio

- Refurbishment of existing fitness gymnasium and disabled change
- Refurbishment of first floor corridor to existing fitness gymnasium
- Development of new corridor to teaching pool
- New flooring to reception and catering area
- Provision of new fitness equipment (100 stations)

FEASIBILITY

Since its original inception in 2014, the project has been revised and the building works kept within the fabric of the existing building. This has reduced the building costs considerably.

In 2014, the financial viability of the project was assessed by an independent specialist leisure consultancy, The Sports Consultancy. The feasibility study was based on the original capital build cost of £1.2m (excl VAT) with the number of fitness stations being between 100-120.

The Sports Consultancy commissioned a latent demand report from The Leisure Database Company Ltd. This report provided a detailed analysis of consumer demographics, using Experian's MOSAIC consumer profiling, for a defined core catchment area of 3 miles. The report identified the profile of consumers on a postcode basis and their propensity to join a health and fitness club. It identified competing facilities within the catchment area and their current membership numbers. This enabled a detailed estimate of latent demand to be produced and the likely overall membership targets to be defined.

These reports are accurate and are used by most major commercial health and fitness operators when making decisions on the location for new gym developments. As such, they provide a robust, but relatively conservative estimate of membership numbers - a key income generator in the business plan.

The latent demand analysis identified a latent demand for the total demand figure of 2,900, this is circa 700 members more than the current membership of 2,200.

The current provision of circa 60 stations is significantly less than the Sports Consultancy would recommend for the current membership of 2,200 and results in a ratio of 37 members per station. This is far in excess of the typical figure of 25 - 30 members per station.

The report identified that this would likely lead to lack of availability during peak times with customers having to wait to use specific pieces of equipment they may wish to use. In addition, this lack of capacity is likely to dissuade some potential members from joining and make recruitment and retention of members more difficult thus reducing the ability of Sencio being able to maximise membership and income as a result of the limited capacity.

COST OF PROJECT

The overall project has been developed with Createability who undertook the previous refurbishment of the fitness gymnasium in 2008. Createability specialise in leisure refurbishments and have worked with over 55 local authorities and leisure Trusts in developing refurbishment projects of this nature.

a) Building works

Total build costs including project management excl VAT	£568096
Total costs including VAT	£681716

b) Equipment costs

Costs for new fitness equipment, weights etc. £286,000 excl. VAT

c) Funding Options

Sencio has approached various financial organisations to secure funding/loans to undertake the project including its bank. Whilst the bank has indicated in principle that it will consider a loan subject to the underwriters approval, the fact that the council is not willing to act as guarantor on the loan, coupled with the fact the remaining lease on the building is not of sufficient length to secure the loan against, the interest on any loan would be high (between 6.45 % and 7.45%).

The council has indicated that it may be willing to offer a loan to help fund the project.

The 106 planning agreement for the demolition of Rayley's gym identifies £95,000 to be made available by the town council to incorporate into Sencio gym facilities. These monies have been confirmed by the town council for the project.

The total cost of the building works is outlined above : £681716

Minus £95k funding from STC : £586716

Loan required from SDC to fund the building works : £600k

The equipment will be leased and funded by Sencio direct.

COST CERTAINTY

Createability has provided cost certainty on the building works and will project manage.

However, they have indicated that depending on the timescales of when the building works can commence inflationary costs of 2% per quarter will need to be applied.

Createability has guaranteed the price up to December 2016.

The 2% inflationary increase will add another £13,634.00 to the building works each quarter.

TIMESCALES

It is imperative that the programme for the refurbishment is as short as possible and that any disruption to customers is kept to a minimum. The overall building works are estimated to be 18 weeks. Exact timings of the project have yet to be agreed but the work is likely to be phased as follows:

Mobilisation 6-8 weeks from signed agreement

- Conversion of toddler pool and wet side corridor by teaching pool
- Development of downstairs gym and changing rooms
- Refurbishment of existing gym/ disabled change
- Refurbishment of existing dance and build of new corridor to new dance studio
- Refurbishment of upper corridor
- Reflooring in reception and catering areas

Timing of the project is critical and it would have been ideal to have the new fitness gymnasium opening before March next year to maximise on the peak demand for new fitness members following the Christmas period. However as the loan will need to be approved by both the Finance Advisory Committee and Council's Cabinet this is not feasible.

BUSINESS CASE

The overall business plan is attached as an appendix to this plan.

The business proposition has been based on a steady and deliberate build up over 3 years with a funding period of 10 years for the building at an assumed rate of 6% and 5 years for the equipment costs.

As Sencio is unable to reclaim all of its VAT costs, the first year shows a high level of irrecoverable VAT due to the VAT on the build costs. This results in the overall surplus being reduced for the first year. However, no account has been taken of the reduction in current members as a result of the new gym and dance studio being developed.

The latent demand analysis identified a latent demand of 700 based on the current membership base of 2200. The business plan has been based on a net gain of 517 members by year 3.

SUMMARY

As outlined in the Sports Consultancy report, the results of the Leisure Database's latent demand analysis showed there is scope to increase membership, participation and income through the extension of health and fitness facilities at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

The reports also highlighted the following key issues:

- the current facilities are operating at a high member per station ratio of 37 members against a norm of 25-30 per station
- the current high level of members reduces the quality experience for customers
- the current high level of members limits Sencio's ability to increase membership and revenue generation.
- there is only one other competing facility within the core catchment area placing Sevenoaks Leisure Centre in a good position to capitalise on the latent demand that exists.
- in line with Leisure Database latent demand forecasts their findings supported an increase in membership to 2,900 although it is quite common for facilities to over perform against the Leisure database's forecasts if a high quality facility is provided in a good catchment area.

The proposed refurbishment of the fitness gymnasium and development of an additional dance studio is vital in ensuring that Sevenoaks Leisure Centre meets an identified need in not only improving the quality of facilities for existing members but also in attracting new members to the centre thus maintaining its position as a premier fitness/health and well being provider in the community.

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Business plan showing income and expenditure for 5 years the proposed gym extension at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre

<u>Additional income</u>					
	yr1	yr 2	yr3	yr 4	yr 5
Casual Users	£19,200	£19,200	£19,200	£19,584	£19,976
Induction	£160	£160	£160	£170	£170
Fitness Memberships	£224,380	£301,730	£326,593	£326,593	£326,593
Fitness Classes	£34,170	£41,820	£49,470	£50,459	£51,469
Joining Fees	£4,553	£4,553	£5,168	£5,271	£5,376
Personal Training	£9,000	£9,000	£9,000	£9,000	£9,000
Hire dance studio	£9,000	£11,040	£14,100	£14,382	£14,670
total	£300,463	£387,503	£423,690	£425,459	£427,253

<u>Additional expenditure</u>					
Staff costs	£108,761	£114,177	£119,548	£120,743	£121,951
R & M and equipment servicing	£0	£2,000	£4,000	£10,000	£10,000
Marketing	£2,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,500	£1,500
Licences	£3,700	£4,375	£5,050	£5,050	£5,050
HP/equipment lease costs	£58,000	£58,000	£58,000	£58,000	£58,000
Loan repayment	£79,935	£79,935	£79,935	£79,935	£79,935
Irrecoverable VAT	£30,000	£15,889	£15,889	£15,889	£15,889
total	£282,396	£275,376	£283,422	£291,117	£292,325
profit/deficit	£18,067	£112,127	£140,268	£134,342	£134,928

Notes

Staff costs includes New Living wage implications

R & M - fitness equipment -free servicing for the first 3 years

Equipment lease costs . CV equipment is HP rental for 5 years whilst resistance equipment / weights is leased purchased 7-10 years depending on the piece of kit. At the end of 5 year HP agreement new CV equipment will be obtained by a new HP rental agreement. At the end of the lease agreement for the resistance/weight equipment they will be traded in and new kit obtained on a new lease agreement

Irrecoverable VAT

VAT payments for the first year are high due to the build costs.

**DIMENSIONS & STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS
ARE SUBJECT TO A DETAILED SURVEY**

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Do not scale drawings
- 1.2 All dimensions are in millimetres and all levels are in metres above ground level, unless noted otherwise.
- 1.3 The provision of this information does not constitute any guarantee or warranty by the architect or engineer, and it is the responsibility of the client to ensure that the information is used for the purpose intended and that it is not used in any way that may be construed as a recommendation or endorsement of any product or service.

Rev.	Revised	Date	Drawn	Checked
01	Initial	12/01/16	JH	JH
02	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH
03	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH
04	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH
05	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH
06	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH
07	Revised	12/01/16	JH	JH



CREATEABILITY

CLASH

sencio

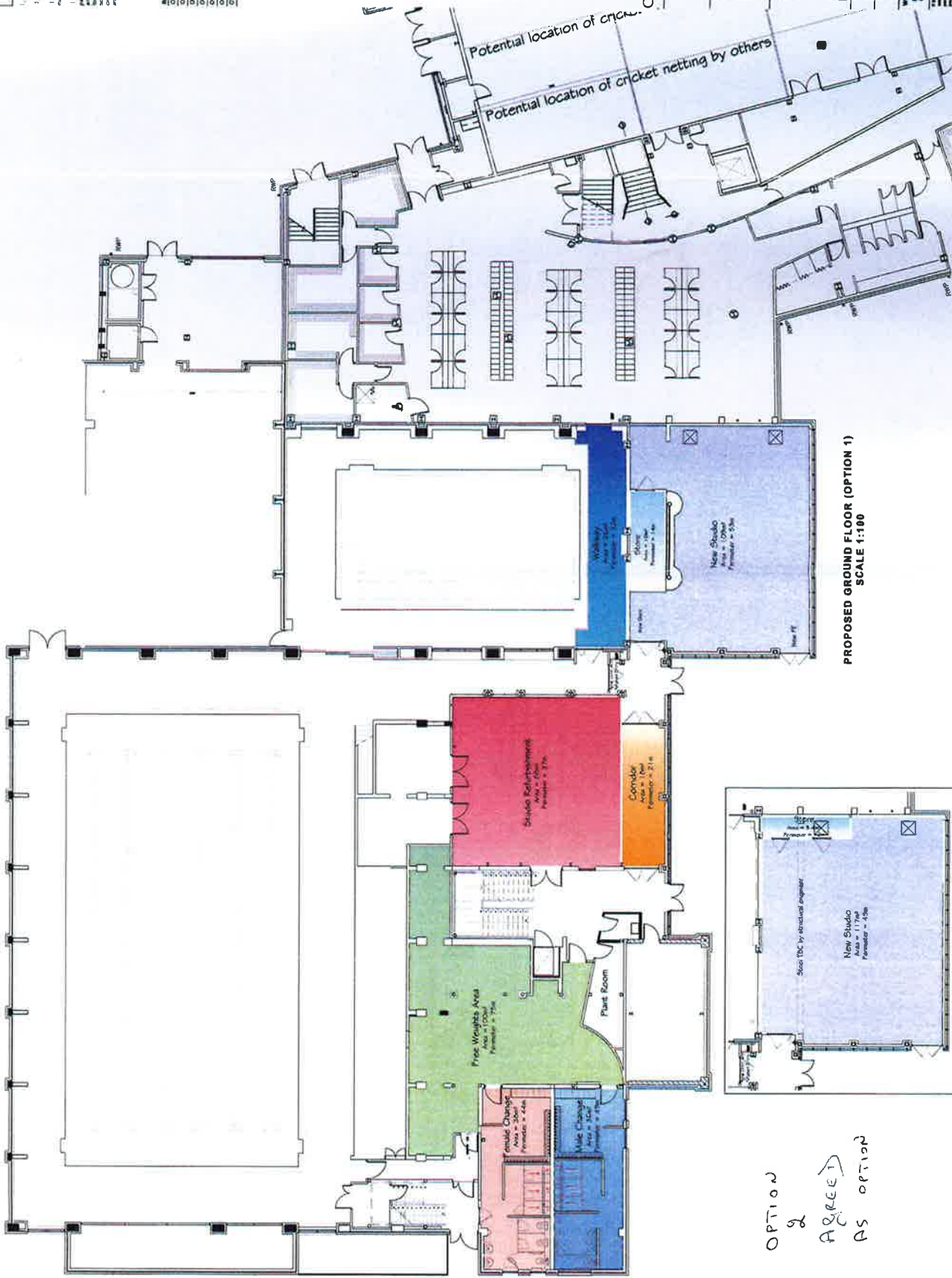
Project: Stomach's Leisure Centre
Boscombe Lane,
Boscombe,
Bournemouth,
Dorset, BH11 1UR

Proposed Alterations: Cf Option A
Job No: 16-022
Drawing No: P-0001
Scale: As Shown

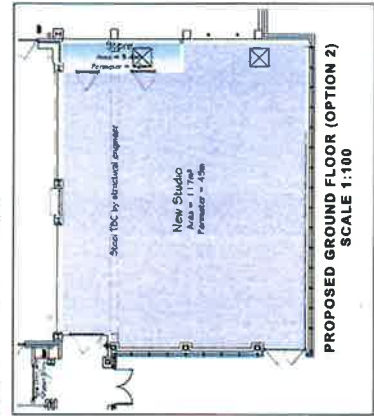
Rev: 07
Drawn: JH
Checked: JH
Date: 20/01/16

www.createability.co.uk
First Floor Plan
Drawing No: P-0001
Drawing Title: Stomach's Leisure Centre

DESIGN ISSUE



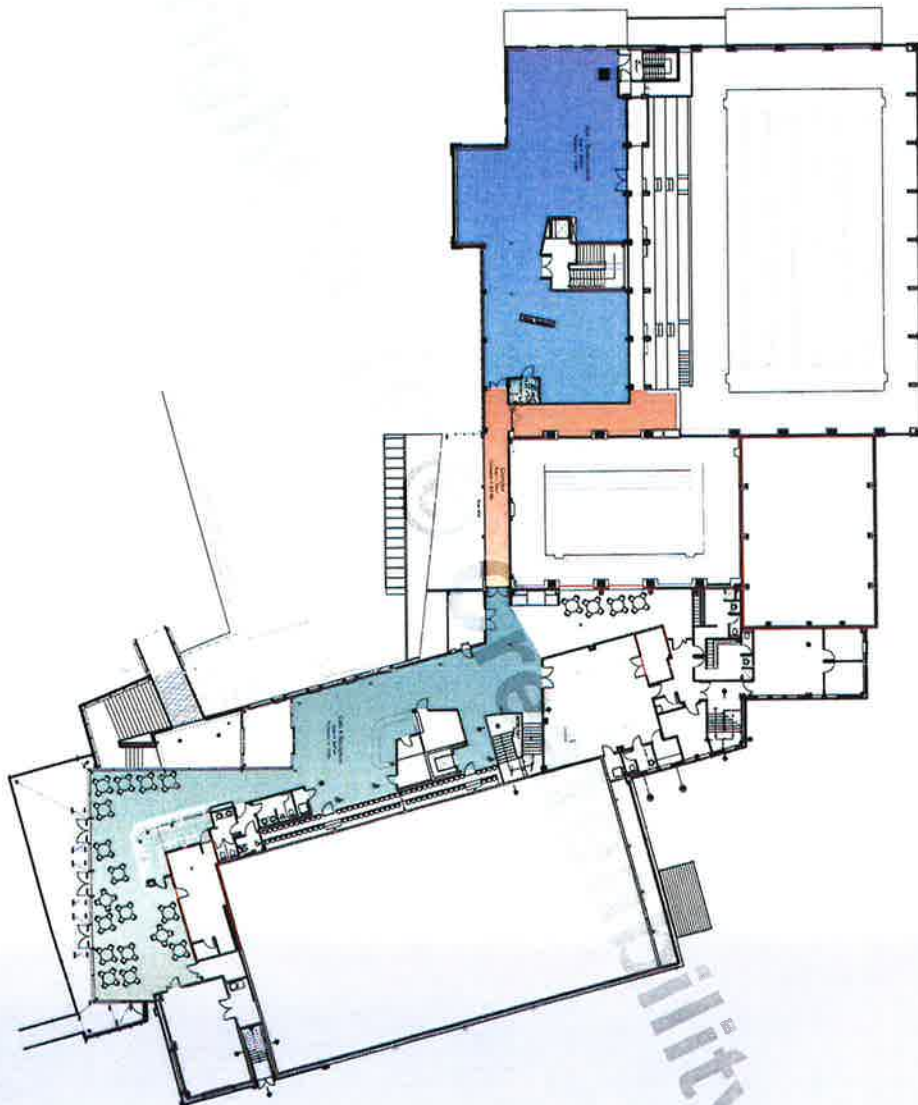
**PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR (OPTION 1)
SCALE 1:100**



**PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR (OPTION 2)
SCALE 1:100**

OPTION 2
AGREED
AS OPTION





PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1:200

CONSERVATION & STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS
ARE SUBJECT TO A DETAILED SURVEY

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Do not make drawings
- 1.2 All dimensions are in millimeters and all heights are in meters above ground level, unless noted otherwise.
- 1.3 The provision of this information does not constitute either a guarantee or a warranty of any kind, and the user of this information is advised to seek professional advice for all matters relating to the use of this information.

Rev	Revisions	Date	Drawn	Checked
01	Initial Issue	01/04/16	ST	ST
02	Revised and L&B provided	01/04/16	ST	ST
03	Revised and L&B provided	01/04/16	ST	ST



CREATEABILITY

CLIENT

sencio

Project: Sencio Leisure Centre
Location: Bishops, Lanc.
Site: Bishops, Lanc.
Use: Leisure

Proposed Alterations: FF

Job No: 16-022

Drawing No: P-0002

Rev: 03

Scale: 1:200

Drawn: JBM

Checked: JBM

Date: 24.06.16

We are CREATEABILITY CO. LTD

DESIGN ISSUE

Item 9 - Statement of principles for determining the amount of a Penalty Charge

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 28 February 2017. The relevant Minute extract was not available prior to the printing of this agenda and will follow when available.

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF A PENALTY CHARGE

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Housing & Health Advisory Committee - 28 February 2017

Key Decision: No

The Executive Summary: A decision to adopt the proposed statement of principles associated with enforcing The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/1693)

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Michelle Lowe

Contact Officer James Cox , Ext. 7312

Recommendation to Housing & Health Advisory Committee: To recommend to Cabinet the statement of principles and associated penalties charges associated with the regulations, be approved.

Recommendation to Cabinet: To approve the statement of principles and associated penalties charges associated with the regulations.

Reason for recommendation: Without a published policy no penalty charges can be required of landlords who are in breach of their duty.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Private sector landlords were required from 1st October 2015 to have at least one smoke alarm installed on every storey of their property and a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance. In addition they must ensure all alarms are in proper working order at the start of each new tenancy.
- 2 When the Council have reasonable grounds to believe one or more the specific requirements have not been undertaken then a remedial notice must be served. A remedial notice requires a landlord to undertake specific works (ie provide or repair an alarm) within 28 days. At this stage the penalty charge regime is also explained including the principals behind any future penalty charge appropriate for this offence.

Agenda Item 9

- 3 The landlord should undertake the specified remedial works, however if this does not occur the Council has two enforcement options.

Firstly, if the occupier of the premises gives consent, the Council will arrange for an authorised person to take the necessary remedial action. We currently have a supply of approved detectors from Kent Fire and Rescue specifically for this purpose.

Secondly, after expiry of a remedial notice, the Council will decide based upon the balance of probabilities whether a breach of the notice has occurred. If it's decided a breach has occurred, then the landlord may be required to pay a penalty charge. If it's decided to impose a penalty charge a notice must be served upon the landlord explaining the reasons why such a notice has been issued and stating the penalty charge they are required to pay.

Recovery of an outstanding penalty charge is possible and obtained via an order from a court.

4. At specific points within the process a landlord has a right to make representations or after the service of penalty charge notice appeal to the First-tier tribunal. The tribunal may either quash, confirm or vary any penalty charge notice.
5. Before the Council can issue a penalty charge notice, a statement of principles including the range of financial penalties to be levied must be agreed and published.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

There are no other options available to ensure a penalty charge notice can be issued.

If the statement of principles is not adopted an authorised person can still undertake the remedial works, however no penalty charge can be subsequently demanded from the landlord.

Key Implications

Financial

There are no significant financial implications in terms of additional administrative or staff costs. It is expected there will be a very limited number of penalty notices issued.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

Publishing the statement of principles is required before the penalty charges are enforceable. Processes associated with issuing of a penalty charge, payment and appeals are clearly described within the regulations.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

It is recommended the statement of principles be adopted to ensure a full compliment of actions and financial penalties are available, ensuring the safety of occupiers.

Appendices

Appendix A- Proposed statement of principles for determining the amount of a penalty charge

Background Papers

None

Richard Wilson

Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

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Statement of principles for determining the amount of a penalty charge

The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/1693)

Introduction

This statement sets out the principles that Sevenoaks District Council (the Council) will apply in exercising its powers to require a relevant landlord to pay a penalty charge.

Purpose of the Statement of Principles

The Council are required under Regulation 13 to prepare and publish a statement of principles and must have regard to this statement on every occasion when deciding on the amount of any penalty charge.

The Council may revise its statement of principles at any time, and where it does so, it must publish a revised statement.

When deciding the amount for the penalty charge, the Council will have regard to the statement of principles published at the time when the breach in question occurred.

The legal framework

All powers come from the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations), that came into force on 1 October 2015.

The Regulations place a duty on landlords, the definition of which include freeholders or leaseholders who have created a tenancy, lease, licence, sub-lease or sub-licence to ensure that:

- a smoke alarm is installed on each storey of premises where there is living accommodation (definition includes bathroom and lavatory); and
- a carbon monoxide alarm is installed in any room of the premises used wholly or partly as living accommodation, which contains a solid fuel burning appliance.

AND for tenancies starting from 1 October 2015

- checks are made by the landlord, or someone acting on his behalf, that the alarm (s) is/are in proper working order on the day the tenancy starts.

Where the Council has reasonable grounds to believe a landlord is in breach of one or more of the above duties, the Council must serve a remedial notice on the landlord. The remedial notice is a notice served under Regulation 5.

If the landlord, then fails to take the remedial action specified in the notice within 28 days, the Council can require a landlord to pay a penalty charge. The power to charge a penalty arises from Regulation 8.

A landlord will not be considered to be in breach of their duty to comply with the remedial notice, if they can demonstrate they have taken all reasonable steps to comply. This can be done by making written representations to the Council at the address given at the bottom of this document within 28 days of when the remedial notice is served.

The Council will impose a penalty charge where it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the landlord has not complied with the action specified in the remedial notice within the required timescale.

The purpose of imposing a financial penalty

The purpose of the Council exercising its regulatory powers is to protect the interests of the public.

The aims of financial penalties on landlords are to:

- Lower the risk to tenant's health and safety;
- Reimburse the costs incurred by the Council in arranging remedial action in default of the landlord;
- Change the behaviour of the landlord and aim to prevent future non-compliance;
- Penalise the landlord for not installing alarms after being required to so, under notice;
- Eliminate financial gain or benefit from non-compliance with the regulations; and
- Be proportionate to potential harm outcomes, the nature of the breach, and the cost benefit to comply with these legal requirements.

Criteria for the imposition of a financial penalty

A failure to comply with the requirements of a remedial notice allows the Council to require payment of a penalty charge.

In considering the imposition of a penalty, the Council will look at the evidence concerning the breach of the requirement of the notice. This will be obtained from a property inspection, or from information provided by the tenant or agent that no remedial action had been undertaken.

For example, it would be considered appropriate if landlords could demonstrate compliance with the Regulations by supplying dated photographs of alarms, together with installation records or confirmation by the tenant that a system is in proper working order.

Landlords need to take steps to demonstrate that they have met the requirement for testing all detection at the start of the tenancy. Examples of how this can be achieved are by tenants signing an inventory form and that they were tested and were in working order at the start of the tenancy. Tenancy agreements can specify the frequency that a tenant should test the alarm to ensure it is in proper working order.

In deciding whether it would be appropriate to impose a penalty, the authority will take full account of the particular facts and circumstances of the breach under consideration.

A financial penalty charge will be considered appropriate if the Council is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the landlord who had been served with remedial notice under Regulation 5 had failed to take the remedial action specified in the notice within the time period specified.

Criteria for determining the amount of a financial penalty

The Regulations state the amount of the penalty charge must not exceed £5,000.

The penalty charge comprises two component parts, a punitive element for failure to comply with the absolute requirement to comply with a remedial notice and a cost element relating to the investigative costs, officer time, administration and any remedial works arranged and carried out by the Council's contractors.

The penalty charge is payable within 29 days beginning with the day on which the penalty charge notice is served.

The Council has discretion to offer an early payment reduction if a landlord pays the penalty charge within 14 days beginning with the day the penalty charge notice is served.

The charges are as follows:

- £2,500 for the first breach to comply with a remedial notice
- £1,250 for early payment, representing 50% reduction, for the first breach to comply with a remedial notice
- £5,000 for a second subsequent breach to comply with a remedial notice
- £3,750 for early payment, representing 25% reduction, for second breach to comply with a remedial notice
- £5,000 for a third breach to comply with a remedial notice with no early repayment reduction.

Procedural matters for Penalty Charge Notices

The Regulations impose a number of procedural steps which must be taken before the Council can impose a requirement on a landlord to pay a penalty charge

When the Council is satisfied that the landlord has failed to comply with the requirements of the remedial notice, all penalty charge notices will be served within six weeks beginning with the day on which the authority is first satisfied a breach has occurred.

Where a review is requested within 29 days from when the penalty charge notice is served, the council will consider any representations made by the landlord. All representations are to be sent to the address at the bottom of this document. The Council will notify the landlord of its decision by notice, which will either be to confirm, vary or withdraw the penalty charge notice.

A landlord who has requested a review of a penalty charge notice and has been served with a notice confirming or varying the penalty charge notice, may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal against the Council's decision. Appeals should be made within 28 days from the notice served of the Council's decision on review.

If the penalty charge notice is not paid, then recovery of the penalty charge will be via an order of the court and proceedings for recovery will commence after 30 days from the date when the penalty charge notice is served.

However, in cases where a landlord has requested a review of the penalty charge notice, recovery will not commence until after 29 days from the date of the notice served giving the Council's decision to vary or confirm the penalty charge notice. Where landlords do make an appeal to the First-tier Tribunal,

recovery will commence after 29 days from when the appeal is finally determined or withdrawn.

Remedial Action taken in default of the landlord

Where the Council is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that a landlord has not complied with a specification described in the remedial notice in the required timescale and consent is given by the occupier, the Council will arrange for remedial works to be undertaken in default of the landlord. This work in default will be undertaken within 28 days of the Council being satisfied of the breach. In these circumstances, battery operated alarms will be installed as a quick and immediate response.

Houses in Multiple Occupation and other high risk premises

Smoke Alarms – In order to comply with these Regulations, smoke alarms will be installed at every storey of residential accommodation. This may provide only a temporary solution as the property may be high risk because of:

- its mode of occupancy such as a house in multiple occupation or building converted into one or more flats,
- having an unsafe internal layout where fire escape routes pass through a living rooms or kitchens, or
- is 3 or more storeys high.

In such premises a full assessment will subsequently be undertaken by the Council. This assessment will consider in greater detail the adequacy of the existing type and coverage of the smoke alarm system, structural fire separation and fire escape routes. Any further works required to address serious fire safety hazards in residential property, that are not undertaken though informal agreement, will be enforced using the Housing Act 2004, in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms – In order to comply with these Regulations, a carbon monoxide alarm will be installed in every room containing a solid fuel combusting appliance.

All communications for representations made against the Remedial Notice (Regulation 5) or the Penalty Charge Notice (Regulation 8) are to be sent to:

Alex Dawson
Property Services Manager
Council Offices
Sevenoaks District Council
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 1HG

Or by email to: psh@sevenoaks.gov.uk

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Item 10 - Community Grant Scheme Draft Allocations 2017/18

The attached report was considered by the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 7 March 2017. The relevant Minute extract was not available prior to the printing of this agenda and will follow when available.

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COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME DRAFT ALLOCATIONS 2017/18

Cabinet - 9 March 2017

Report of Chief Officer - Communities & Business

Status: For decision

Also considered by: Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee -
7 March 2017

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: This report sets out information about the Community Grant Scheme and summarises applications received by the Council from voluntary organisations for funding during 2017/18.

Details of the appraisal process are provided. This included a lengthy and detailed consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development, Cllr Hogarth, the Deputy Portfolio Holders for Economic & Community Development, Cllrs Maskell and McGarvey, and Cllr Mrs Bosley. Members have been trained in appraisal techniques. Recommended grants are set out in Appendix C.

Copies of the applications received are available in the Members' Room.

Officers would be pleased to answer detailed questions about individual applications in advance of the meeting.

This report supports the Key Aim of Providing Value for Money and the Community Plan Vision for Safe & Caring Communities, a Green & Healthy Environment and a Dynamic & Sustainable Economy.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Hogarth

Contact Officer Simon Davies, Ext. 7374

Recommendation to Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee: For information.

Recommendation to Cabinet: That Grants, as set out in Appendix C of this report be approved subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 15.

Reason for recommendation: Applications received have been appraised according to the Council's Guidelines and those recommended for funding support the aims of the scheme and represent value for money.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Council's Community Grant Scheme supports local charities and voluntary sector organisations that, through their work, contribute to the priorities set out in the Community Plan 2013-28.
- 2 The grant guidelines were reviewed during 2013/14 and revised guidelines were agreed by Cabinet on 12 September 2013.
- 3 The grant scheme was publicised widely across the District within the voluntary sector, through town and parish councils, libraries and in the press in September 2016. The closing date was 25 November 2016. The total budget available for distribution in 2017/18 is £153,331, including £98,540 for the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in the District. Funding for the Citizens' Advice Bureaux is subject to a three year Service Level Agreement 2015-18.
- 4 The 2017/18 budget available for voluntary sector organisations is as follows:-

Funding for the CABx SLA	£ 98,540
Amount available for grants	£ 54,791
Total Budget	£ 153,331

- 5 A total of 38 grant applications have been received, representing total grant requests of £127,709.
- 6 A copy of the Council's Corporate Code of Practice for making grants is attached at Appendix A.
- 7 A copy of the scheme guidelines is attached at Appendix B.
- 8 A full schedule of applications is attached at Appendix C. The Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development has copies of all of the applications and a full set is available in the Members' Room. Officers would be pleased to deal with any detailed queries in advance of the meeting.
- 9 In 2016/17, the voluntary organisations funded supported 247,883 volunteer hours, which represented an economic benefit to the District of £ 3.08 million.

Appraisal Process

- 10 Members will appreciate that the recommended grants in Appendix C have been put forward following an appraisal by Officers trained in grant appraisal and a detailed consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development, Cllr Hogarth and the Deputy Portfolio Holders for

Economic & Community Development, Cllrs Maskell and McGarvey, and Cllr Mrs Bosley. Recommendations have been made in accordance with the Scheme Guidelines and the Council's Corporate Code of Practice for grants and take into account various factors, including:

- i. the extent to which the application supports the District Council's priorities;
- ii. the extent to which the application assists residents across the District and its impact;
- iii. the extent to which the application should be funded by other organisations;
- iv. whether performance indicators are relevant and appropriate;
- v. whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria established in the Guidelines and the Corporate Code of Practice for grants;
- vi. the level of reserves held by the applicant.
- vii. Whether the applicant has appropriate child protection and safeguarding arrangements in place.

Recommended Level of Grant

- 11 A summary of the total value of recommendations in this report and the total draft budget is set out below.

Total 2017/18 grant budget available to voluntary and community sector organisations (subject to approval of budget)	£153,331
Grants to CABx for 2017/18 under the terms of a three-year SLA	£98,540
Recommended grants to all other voluntary and youth groups	£54,780
Total recommendations	£153,320

- 12 A full list of grants recommended to voluntary organisations is attached at Appendix C. Of the 27 applications recommended to receive funding, 7 are from organisations that did not receive funding in 2016/17.
- 13 A breakdown of applications by geographical area is set out at Appendix D.

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- 14 Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reason for this decision, and encouraged to contact Imago or North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service for advice and support in seeking funding elsewhere if appropriate.

Recommended Conditions

- 15 It is recommended that grants be made to voluntary organisations subject to the following conditions:
- (i) that performance indicators as set out in the application forms are adhered to and monitored;
 - (ii) that appropriate Safeguarding policies and arrangements are in place, where necessary;
 - (iii) that appropriate recognition of this Council's funding contribution is made in all their publicity; and
 - (iv) where services are provided over a wider area than the District boundaries, organisations will be required to hold grant aid from this Council in a restricted fund for the benefit of Sevenoaks District residents.

Key Implications

Financial

- 16 The level of funding recommended is in accordance with the draft 2017/18 budget of £153,331.

Resources (Non-financial)

- 17 The work connected with the Community Grant Scheme administration and monitoring is being undertaken through existing resources.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 18 There are no legal or human rights issues relating to this report. All organisations applying for funding are required to have an equalities policy and where appropriate child protection and/or adult protection policies.

Risk	Mitigation
Grants allocated are lower than requested	Application forms ask whether the project could continue if funding were reduced. Appraisal looks at realistic performance indicators for the amount of grant recommended. Performance indicators are agreed with

	Voluntary and Community Groups.
As a condition of grant any organisation allocating onward funding on behalf of the Council to another organisation must check whether appropriate police checks and child or vulnerable adult protection policies are in place.	Condition of grant to ensure checks carried out and that application forms seek confirmation. Monitoring process to confirm an effective process is in place.
Grant allocations not approved in March.	A timetable is in place to ensure grants are considered by Cabinet in March and processes in place to ensure grant payments are made in the first week of the financial year.

Equality Assessment

- 19 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and varies between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The community grants scheme assists with the provision of services to support District residents, particularly those in the greatest need.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	The grant scheme provides funding for specific groups, such as older people, families, young people and people with disabilities. The grants scheme is widely publicised to ensure that groups serving a wide

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Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
		range of needs are able to apply.
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		No negative impacts identified

Conclusions

- 20 The work of the voluntary sector across the Sevenoaks District is highly valued. The Council's grants programme supports the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers who help the most vulnerable people in the District. Members are asked to agree the draft grant allocations as set out in Appendix C.

Appendices

Appendix A - Council's Corporate Code of Practice for making grants

Appendix B - Community Grant Scheme guidelines

Appendix C - Full schedule of applications

Appendix D - Full schedule of applications by geographical location.

Background Papers:

Grant scheme guidelines (Apx B above)

Sevenoaks District Council Code of Practice for Grant-making (Apx A above)

Lesley Bowles
Chief Officer Communities & Business

Sevenoaks District Council Grants

Code of Practice September 2003

For this purpose, a grant is taken to mean:

'a cash award for a specified initiative, project or service not provided by the Council which benefits residents or those working in the district'

Each grant scheme should have:

1. Written criteria outlining:
 - Eligibility
 - Scheme objectives
 - How the grant decision will be made in relation to the extent to which the scheme criteria are met.
2. An application form
3. Guidelines for completing the application form.
4. Minimum and maximum grant level
5. Performance indicators
6. Monitoring arrangements

Principles

- The criteria must be in line with the Council's overall objectives
- All grant schemes and benefits in kind must support and complement the Council's Strategic Objectives.

Eligibility

- The applicant group must have a constitution (or at least be working towards adopting one). For most grants a constitution is essential.
- The applicant group should have a management committee.
- The applicant group must have a bank account with 2 signatories. If they do not have a bank account, they must nominate a voluntary organisation to take responsibility for the money on their behalf.
- The applicant must have, and enclose with the application, a set of audited or independently examined accounts for the latest year available
- The project should be for the benefit of people living or working in the Sevenoaks District.

The application form should:

- Identify how the application meets the scheme criteria
- Contain performance indicators by which the success of the project will be measured.
- Be targeted to the potential recipients. The degree of information required should be proportionate, reasonable and reflect how much money they are eligible to apply for.
- Identify if the applicant has applied to the Council before for funding or if they have an external bid outstanding. Identify how much they have applied for and when applicants are likely to know the outcome. Include details of any other funding applied for and whether bids have been successful.
- Make it clear that grants have to be paid back if the proposal does not go ahead and that if they do not notify the Council, this may jeopardise future applications.
- Make it clear at what stage the funding will be made available e.g. on receipt of invoices, 100% in advance, staged payment etc.
- Include a checklist for applicants to ensure everything has been filled in and all documents are enclosed etc.
- Include an outline of the project timetable.
- Identify whether the applicant group has policies which cover child protection/health and safety/equal opportunities etc.
- Identify if the organisation is working towards any form of accreditation.

The application process;

- Application forms must be accompanied by the scheme criteria guidelines for completing the application form and an explanation of the timescale, including deadlines, during which the application will be processed.
- Applicants need to be informed at the outset about the level and timing of monitoring, evaluation and annual reporting required
- Applications should be acknowledged within 10 days of receipt.
- A list must be kept of everyone who is sent a form so that reasons for not replying can be gained if necessary
- Applicants should be informed of the timescale for consideration and notification of decision at the outset.
- If the application has not been approved, reasons should be given.

Deadlines

- Dates for consideration of applications need to be publicised and deadlines set for receipt of applications.
- No applications will be considered after closing dates.

Grants application appraisal

- Grant appraisers should be trained.
- Appraisal must be against the given criteria and applicants must meet set criteria in order to receive the grant.
- The scheme/proposal must meet the main aim of the grant scheme.
- Applications should be assessed according to the extent to which the identified need is met. Applicants should therefore be asked to state the need.
- Audited accounts should be considered when the application is appraised.
- Applicants need to demonstrate financial need and financial viability.

Approval

- All grant applications should receive a response indicating that the grant has been approved held over or refused
- Approval letters should indicate clearly whether there are any conditions attached to the grant.

Payment

- Payment of money – timescale for payment should be included in the written notification of grant approval.
- Cheques should go out with a letter reiterating what the money will be spent on and the required monitoring of performance indicators. There should also be a receipt which the applicant signs, dates and sends back to confirm they have received the money and that it will be used for the purpose for which it was approved.
- As part of the monitoring/evaluation process, receipts to prove that the money has been spent on what it was intended for should be provided by the applicant where necessary. For example, where grants have been made for capital/equipment purchase. (*The financial threshold needs to be considered*).

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Monitoring has to be relevant and targeted to the applicant group, degree of detail reflecting the size of grant.

- Monitoring – must relate to key outputs/targets/milestones which should be part of the original application. Monitoring should assess achievements against agreed outputs/targets.
- A progress report must be provided – frequency determined by the level of grant.
- Recipients of grants must keep a record of user numbers, who has benefited from the grant and any feedback from users.
- PIs should be part of target setting. This should be proportionate to the size of grant.
- How often and by whom they will be monitored must be specified.
- Schemes must be evaluated using the monitoring information provided.
- The applicant group should have client evaluation – satisfaction survey e.g. play scheme – how did the parents find it, did the children enjoy it etc. proportionate to the size of grant.

Promotion

- Applicants need to make clear what publicity/promotion is being undertaken for the scheme/grant and must acknowledge the grant provided by the District Council in all publicity.

Review

- The grant process itself must be reviewed internally at regular intervals, at least every 3 years to ensure the system is still effective. This includes review of application forms, criteria, reporting etc. with feedback from applicants.

General

- There should be a SDC database which everyone can access which gives details of those groups who have applied for funding and the outcome.

Community Grants Scheme Guidelines 2017/18

Please read the following guidelines carefully before completing the application form. If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Simon Davies at:

Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG.

Tel: **01732 227000** Email: grants@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Our Community Grant scheme exists to help voluntary organisations which provide services, activities or projects that benefit Sevenoaks District residents, focussing on those in greatest need.

In particular, we wish to support services, activities or projects that are delivered with the help of volunteers and that support Sevenoaks District Community Plan priorities set out below:

Please note: We can only accept one application per organisation.

Please complete the application form electronically, then print out, sign, and post your application to us. Please note, we cannot accept hand written applications.

What are the scheme's priorities?

Volunteering:

- Promote, encourage or support volunteers and volunteering as part of a project, service or activity.

Social Inclusion:

- Improve opportunities for vulnerable or elderly people;
- Encourage community participation of excluded or vulnerable groups;
- Improve the wellbeing of local residents.

Community Safety:

- Reduce crime or anti-social behaviour.

Information, Advice, Advocacy and Counselling:

- Provide information, advice, advocacy or counselling to residents when they are in particular need.

Young People:

- Projects, services and activities that encourage participation in local communities or provide positive activities or opportunities for young people.

Arts & Sports:

- Funding for the Sevenoaks District Arts and Sports Councils to support arts and sports projects that contribute to the overall wellbeing of residents and encourage the inclusion of groups with particular needs.

Community Grants Scheme 2017/18

Who can apply?

You can apply if you deliver services to Sevenoaks District residents in two or more parishes and are one of the following:

- “Not for profit” registered charity;
- Youth organisation;
- Voluntary organisation;
- Community Interest Company.

If your organisation works with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you should have a Safeguarding Policy and staff and volunteers must have enhanced level Disclosure & Barring Service checks and appropriate training.

How much and what can I apply for?

The minimum you can apply for is **£100**

The most we will award for any one application is **£5,000**

The grant can be spent on project costs such as support for volunteers, equipment or premises hire. In addition, you can apply for core running costs that are commensurate with the project, service or activity applied for.

What are the main conditions?

By applying, you are confirming that you comply with the terms and conditions. The main conditions include:

- Your organisation has a constitution;
- Your organisation has a bank account with at least two authorised signatories;
- Your organisation has an equalities policy in place and is prepared to sign our Equalities Statement;
- All appropriate legal agreements, insurances and processes needed to deliver the project are in place, including safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults;
- Any grant you are awarded will be used only for the project set out in your application and will be ring-fenced to help Sevenoaks District residents. It must not be used for any other purpose;
- You will be required to submit monitoring for your project with supporting evidence;
- All publicity materials and annual reports must acknowledge our support;
- Your organisation can only submit one application in any financial year;
- Any grant unspent at the year end will be refunded to Sevenoaks District Council.

What we will not fund

We will not fund:

- Projects, services or activities that serve only one Parish;
- Costs for projects, services or activities that your organisation is already delivering in the District as part of an existing contract or service level agreement with another funder;
- Costs for projects that have already started or been delivered;
- Projects where the beneficiaries are not Sevenoaks District residents;
- Private concerns operated as a business;
- Organisations seeking to add capital to their reserves;
- Local organisations seeking funding for a central HQ;
- Religious or political organisations;
- Individuals;
- Work that should be provided by statutory, educational, health organisations or social services;
- Schools or parent/teacher organisations.

How will we assess your project?

The appraisal process will look at:

- Your eligibility to apply;
- The extent to which your project meets the Scheme's priorities;
- How many people will benefit from your project;
- The level of need for the project;
- The level of benefit to Sevenoaks District residents;
- The level of reserves held by your organisation.

Community Grants Scheme 2017/18

When will you know if your application is successful?

The deadline for submitting your completed application form is **Friday 25th November 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

During March 2017, we will decide who will receive funding. We will write to you during April 2017 to let you know if your application has been successful.

If you require any assistance, please contact Simon Davies, Partnership and Projects Officer, on **01732 227000**.

Applications must be signed by the applicant on behalf of the organisation and returned by post to the address below:

Community Grant Scheme, Communities & Business Team, Sevenoaks District Council,
Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Deadline for completed applications 25th November 2016.

Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2017/18

Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
2	The D'Vine Singers	To enhance the wellbeing for people with mental health needs in the Sevenoaks District through regular singing and socialisation.	No application	£0	£2,000	£350		
3	North West Kent Volunteer Centre	Contribute to running costs and support inclusion and access for vulnerable and elderly people. a) Befriending service, b) Community transport, c) Gardening support by volunteers	£4,500	£4,500	£5,000	£4,250		
8	Sevenoaks District Arts Council	Provide grants or underwriting to arts groups/societies across the whole Sevenoaks District	£4,250	£4,250	£5,000	£2,500		
21	West Kent Mind	StressLess programmes, to deliver 5 x 6 week programmes. Attendees will be anyone experiencing stress or at risk of stress due to personal circumstances	£3,000	£4,000	£5,000	£3,000		
23	Relate West & Mid Kent	To train four new counsellors to work with clients in Sevenoaks to continue offering the Relate service in Sevenoaks.	£2,000	No application	£5,000	£2,800		
30	Sevenoaks District Sports Council	To provide funding to support sports activities across the District: 1. Group coaching and/or training in all sports, 2. Individual coaching, 3. Organised training/coaching courses, 4. helping new clubs to set up sports for young and disabled, 5. Social sports for the older age group, 6. helping all ages with disability sports, 7. Individual grants for talented young sportspeople	£4,250	£4,250	£5,000	£2,500		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
44	Sevenoaks Counselling (District wide)	To pay for subsidised confidential counselling sessions. Sessions are open to everyone on an equal opportunities basis.	£600	£800	£900	£800		
51	Family Matters	To provide support and specialist therapy to victims of rape and sexual abuse to relieve the mental and physical distress experienced by victims.	£1,200	No application	£4,805	£1,200		
58	CVSNWK	To support voluntary sector infrastructure in Swanley & Northern Parishes. 1. Funding a worker to carry out voluntary sector support work in Swanley & Northern Parishes, 2. Project work to cover unmet needs a) Safe Project, b) Home Support Service	£1,000	£1,000	£5,000	£1,000		
66	Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service	Contribution to cost of volunteer drivers' expenses and car running costs	£500	£500	£500	£500		
85	Imago	Volunteer Centre - £5,000, Infrastructure support - £ 3,000, Youth services - £5,000, Dial2Drive - £ 5,000	£12,000	£12,000	£18,000	£10,000		£ 4,500 for Volunteer centre, £2,000 for Infrastructure support, £1,750 for Youth services and £1,750 for Dial2Drive

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
91	Commonwork (Bore Place)	To provide opportunities for local communities and volunteers to access green spaces in and around Bore Place 1. Fund enhancement of a 3 mile trail through Weald countryside with activities for local communities. 2. Volunteer groups will be recruited to assist with managing the trail. Engaging with vulnerable individuals through partner organisations. 4. Work with SDC Health Walks	No application	No application	£5,000	£1,500		
110	Sevenoaks Community First Responders	To kit out two new emergency responders	No application	£1,660	£2,400	£1,200		
116	Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge	To fund 60 Information and Advice home visits with follow up support, targeting older people who are isolated, lonely and/or have health issues	No application	No application	£5,000	£2,000		
139	Farningham Village hall	Farningham Online - will help residents to use a computer and to have have the right access, skills, motivation and trust to confidently go online. To provide free wifi for all users of the village hall.	No application	No application	£4,311	£0	8	Application only represents one parish

Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2017/18

Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
148	Sevenoaks Home Library Service	Annual running costs and maintenance of the library van	£150	£250	£250	£250		
154	Knockholt Carnival Committee	To provide two gazebos to provide shelter for volunteers staffing the entrances and field for the firework display. Also two microphones to make public announcements	No application	No application	£500	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
173	Compaid	To help meet the cost of Sevenoaks Kent Karrier Service taking disabled, elderly and other vulnerable residents within the Sevenoaks District to medical appointments	£4,000	No application	£4,000	£3,500		
195	North Kent Mind	To deliver a Work & Wellbeing Programme - a bespoke training programme for individuals who are unemployed and experiencing mental health issues	No application	No application	£4,766	£2,000		
196	Sevenoaks PHAB	Weekly sessions for adults who live in Sevenoaks District and have a learning and/or physical disability, offering a variety of activities inc. music, singing, drama etc	£400	£400	£500	£400		
206	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	To defray running costs of providing low cost transport for elderly, infirm and disabled residents to Sevenoaks Hospital, other hospitals and clinics and also organisations for disabled people.	£500	£500	£500	£500		

Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2017/18

Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
264	West Kent Mediation	Continued provision of a free, restorative, impartial, confidential community mediation service for all individuals, families and groups living in Sevenoaks District. To part fund restorative conferencing service to resolve multi-party disputes within the community. To recruit and train new volunteers from SDC areas. Contribution to volunteers' expenses and hall hire costs for joint mediation meetings.	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£4,500		
316	Kemsing Open Door	Funding to help Open Door maintain three coach excursions in Kent and Sussex	No application	No application	£1,500	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
344	Kent Friendz (District-wide)	To provide a specialist club for 20 children with severe and complex disabilities, including challenging behaviour, at regular intervals during the year.	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000		
394	BRIDGES	To extend the service offered by BRIDGES onto Wednesday afternoons with: a) Creative therapeutic arts project and b) lunches for housebound people.	£1,000	£1,000	£1,800	£1,000		
425	Playplace Innov8	Multimedia Youth Programme - promote, encourage and train six community volunteers and young leaders. 8 week multimedia project in Dunton Green and Westerham. Participating young people will achieve an accredited AQA or Arts award outcome.	£2,240	No application	£4,983	£1,500		

Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2017/18

Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
428	Swanley Therapy Centre	To provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy to elderly people who suffer from a wide range of neurological and physical disabilities, including multiple sclerosis	No application	No application	£2,000	£0	4	This service should be supported by other health funding
436	West Kent Communities	Contribution towards summer residential trip for vulnerable children aged 8-12 living in Sevenoaks District	£1,000	£1,250	£3,052	£1,250		
439	Kenward Trust	To contribute to the cost of providing drug and alcohol awareness at Safety in Action event in May 2017	No application	£1,000	£700	£700		
443	Revitalise Respite Holidays	To provide essential respite holidays for three disabled guests and carers from Sevenoaks at one of Revitalise's UK based centres.	£0	No application	£1,062	£0	2	The application has not identified the need within the Sevenoaks District
446	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services	Grant towards core costs and volunteer expenses, providing vital support services for women and men experiencing domestic abuse, providing a cost effective helpline, face to face support, risk assessments to national standards, signposting, Support to Court project, help with paperwork, coordinating the Freedom Programme and raising public awareness	£3,000	£3,580	£5,000	£3,580		
462	Salus	Safety in Action - West Kent. To support staging a 2 week event for 1,600 year 2 children from west Kent. All Sevenoaks District primary schools are invited to participate.	1000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000		
467	EDNA	Dance Around My World - an inclusive 12 week diverse dance, movement to music project for people living with dementia and their carers.	No application	£0	£1,200	£0	7	The applicant is a limited company and so not eligible

Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2017/18

Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
469	CrockenARA	To provide workshops on a weekday afternoon to encourage cohesion and make a welcoming place for new opportunities to ensure a full and active retirement.	No application	No application	£480	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
470	Bradbourne Residents' Association	To undertake renovation work to footpaths in Bradbourne Lakes Park	No application	No application	£5,000	£0	1,8	Reserves are higher than expenditure
471	Involve Kent	To fund 20 day-long outings for Sevenoaks residents who are living with cancer.	No application	No application	£2,065	£0	3	
472	Alfie James Productions	The Black Dog Theatre Creation - a 6 month community pilot theatre-based project to support adults affected by poor confidence, mental health issues and at risk of isolation	No application	No application	£2,500	£0	4	This service should be funded through Sevenoaks District Arts Council
473	Otford Village Memorial Hall	To provide sound systems for the main hall and Club Room	No application	No application	£4,935	£0	8	Application only represents one parish

TOTAL TOTAL £127,709 £54,780

AVAILABLE FUNDING £54,791

Refusal Reasons

- 1 The organisation's reserves are considered to be too high to enable a grant to be recommended
- 2 The application has not demonstrated that the project for which funding is sought sufficiently meets the priorities of the grant scheme
- 3 The available level of funding is not sufficient for the Council to be able to support this priority
- 4 This service is primarily the responsibility of another agency
- 5 This is an advice service that does not have CLS accreditation
- 6 This application is for work taking place in a different financial year
- 7 Application is ineligible under the Community Grant Guidelines
- 8 This application cannot be supported as priority has been given to applications supporting a wide area of the District

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Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				

DISTRICT WIDE

2	The D'Vine Singers	To enhance the wellbeing for people with mental health needs in the Sevenoaks District through regular singing and socialisation.	No application	£0	£2,000	£350		
8	Sevenoaks District Arts Council	Provide grants or underwriting to arts groups/societies across the whole Sevenoaks District	£4,250	£4,250	£5,000	£2,500		
30	Sevenoaks District Sports Council	To provide funding to support sports activities across the District: 1. Group coaching and/or training in all sports, 2. Individual coaching, 3. Organised training/coaching courses, 4. helping new clubs to set up sports for young and disabled, 5. Social sports for the older age group, 6. helping all ages with disability sports, 7. Individual grants for talented young sportspeople	£4,250	£4,250	£5,000	£2,500		
44	Sevenoaks Counselling (District-wide)	To pay for subsidised confidential counselling sessions. Sessions are open to everyone on an equal opportunities basis.	£600	£800	£900	£800		
51	Family Matters	To provide support and specialist therapy to victims of rape and sexual abuse to relieve the mental and physical distress experienced by victims.	£1,200	No application	£4,805	£1,200		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
85	Imago	Volunteer Centre - £5,000, Infrastructure support - £ 3,000, Youth services - £5,000, Dial2Drive - £ 5,000	£12,000	£12,000	£18,000	£10,000		£ 4,500 for Volunteer centre, £2,000 for Infrastructure support, £1,750 for Youth services and £1,750 for Dial2Drive
173	Compaid	To help meet the cost of Sevenoaks Kent Karrier Service taking disabled, elderly and other vulnerable residents within the Sevenoaks District to medical appointments	£4,000	No application	£4,000	£3,500		
264	West Kent Mediation	Continued provision of a free, restorative, impartial, confidential community mediation service for all individuals, families and groups living in Sevenoaks District. To part fund restorative conferencing service to resolve multi-party disputes within the community. To recruit and train new volunteers from SDC areas. Contribution to volunteers' expenses and hall hire costs for joint mediation meetings.	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£4,500		
344	Kent Friendz (District-wide)	To provide a specialist club for 20 children with severe and complex disabilities, including challenging behaviour, at regular intervals during the year.	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000		
428	Swanley Therapy Centre	To provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy to elderly people who suffer from a wide range of neurological and physical disabilities, including multiple sclerosis	No application	No application	£2,000	£0	4	This service should be supported by other health funding

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
436	West Kent Communities	Contribution towards summer residential trip for vulnerable children aged 8-12 living in Sevenoaks District	£1,000	£1,250	£3,052	£1,250		
439	Kenward Trust	To contribute to the cost of providing drug and alcohol awareness at Safety in Action event in May 2017	No application	£1,000	£700	£700		
443	Revitalise Respite Holidays	To provide essential respite holidays for three disabled guests and carers from Sevenoaks at one of Revitalise's UK based centres.	£0	No application	£1,062	£0	2	The application has not identified the need within the Sevenoaks District
446	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services	Grant towards core costs and volunteer expenses, providing vital support services for women and men experiencing domestic abuse, providing a cost effective helpline, face to face support, risk assessments to national standards, signposting, Support to Court project, help with paperwork, coordinating the Freedom Programme and raising public awareness	£3,000	£3,580	£5,000	£3,580		
462	Salus	Safety in Action - West Kent. To support staging a 2 week event for 1,600 year 2 children from west Kent. All Sevenoaks District primary schools are invited to participate.	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000		
471	Involve Kent	To fund 20 day-long outings for Sevenoaks residents who are living with cancer.	No application	No application	£2,065	£0	3	
					£61,584	£32,880		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				

SWANLEY & NORTHERN PARISHES

3	North West Kent Volunteer Centre	Contribute to running costs and support inclusion and access for vulnerable and elderly people. a) Befriending service, b) Community transport, c) Gardening support by volunteers	£4,500	£4,500	£5,000	£4,250		
58	CVSNWK	To support voluntary sector infrastructure in Swanley & Northern Parishes. 1. Funding a worker to carry out voluntary sector support work in Swanley & Northern Parishes, 2. Project work to cover unmet needs a) Safe Project, b) Home Support Service	£1,000	£1,000	£5,000	£1,000		
195	North Kent Mind	To deliver a Work & Wellbeing Programme - a bespoke training programme for individuals who are unemployed and experiencing mental health issues	No application	No application	£4,766	£2,000		
					£14,766	£7,250		

SEVENOAKS AREA

110	Sevenoaks Community First Responders	To kit out two new emergency responders	No application	£1,660	£2,400	£1,200		
148	Sevenoaks Home Library Service	Annual running costs and maintenance of the library van	£150	£250	£250	£250		
196	Sevenoaks PHAB	Weekly sessions for adults who live in Sevenoaks District and have a learning and/or physical disability, offering a variety of activities inc. music, singing, drama etc	£400	£400	£500	£400		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
206	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	To defray running costs of providing low cost transport for elderly, infirm and disabled residents to Sevenoaks Hospital, other hospitals and clinics and also organisations for disabled people.	£500	£500	£500	£500		
425	Playplace Innov8	Multimedia Youth Programme - promote, encourage and train six community volunteers and young leaders. 8 week multimedia project in Dunton Green and Westerham. Participating young people will achieve an accredited AQA or Arts award outcome.	£2,240	No application	£4,983	£1,500		
467	EDNA	Dance Around My World - an inclusive 12 week diverse dance, movement to music project for people living with dementia and their carers.	No application	£0	£1,200	£0	7	The applicant is a limited company and so not eligible
472	Alfie James Productions	The Black Dog Theatre Creation - a 6 month community pilot theatre-based project to support adults affected by poor confidence, mental health issues and at risk of isolation	No application	No application	£2,500	£0	4	This service should be funded through Sevenoaks District Arts Council
					£12,333	£3,850		

SEVENOAKS & SOUTHERN PARISHES

21	West Kent Mind	StressLess programmes, to deliver 5 x 6 week programmes. Attendees will be anyone experiencing stress or at risk of stress due to personal circumstances	£3,000	£4,000	£5,000	£3,000		
23	Relate West & Mid Kent	To train four new counsellors to work with clients in Sevenoaks to continue offering the Relate service in Sevenoaks.	£2,000	No application	£5,000	£2,800		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				
116	Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge	To fund 60 Information and Advice home visits with follow up support, targeting older people who are isolated, lonely and/or have health issues	No application	No application	£5,000	£2,000		
					£15,000	£7,800		

EDENBRIDGE & SOUTHERN PARISHES

66	Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service	Contribution to cost of volunteer drivers' expenses and car running costs	£500	£500	£500	£500		
91	Commonwork (Bore Place)	To provide opportunities for local communities and volunteers to access green spaces in and around Bore Place 1. Fund enhancement of a 3 mile trail through Weald countryside with activities for local communities. 2. Volunteer groups will be recruited to assist with managing the trail. Engaging with vulnerable individuals through partner organisations. 4. Work with SDC Health Walks	No application	No application	£5,000	£1,500		
394	BRIDGES	To extend the service offered by BRIDGES onto Wednesday afternoons with: a) Creative therapeutic arts project and b) lunches for housebound people.	£1,000	£1,000	£1,800	£1,000		
					£7,300	£3,000		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2017/18	Draft Recommended allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2015/16	2016/17				

ONE PARISH ONLY

139	Farningham Village hall	Farningham Online - will help residents to use a computer and to have have the right access, skills, motivation and trust to confidently go online. To provide free wifi for all users of the village hall.	No application	No application	£4,311	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
154	Knockholt Carnival Committee	To provide two gazebos to provide shelter for volunteers staffing bthe entrances and field for the firework display. Also two microphones to make public announcements	No application	No application	£500	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
316	Kemsing Open Door	Funding to help Open Door maintain three coach excursions in Kent and Sussex	No application	No application	£1,500	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
469	CrockenARA	To provide workshops on a weekday afternoon to encourage cohesion and make a welcoming place for new opportunities to ensure a full and active retirement.	No application	No application	£480	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
470	Bradbourne Residents' Association	To undertake renovation work to footpaths in Bradbourne Lakes Park	No application	No application	£5,000	£0	1,8	Reserves are higher than expenditure and application represents a small area of the District
473	Otford Village Memorial Hall	To provide sound systems for the main hall and Club Room	No application	No application	£4,935	£0	8	Application only represents one parish
					£16,726	£0		

OVERALL TOTAL £127,709 £54,780

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Item 11 - Draft Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2017-18

The attached report was considered by the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 7 March 2017. The relevant Minute extract was not available prior to the printing of this agenda and will follow when available.

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SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN 2017-18

Cabinet- 9 March 2017

Report of : Chief Officer Communities and Business

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee -
7 March 2017

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: This report seeks consideration of the 2017-18 Sevenoaks District Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan. The plan responds to the community safety priorities identified in the most recent Strategic Assessment.

This report supports the Key Aim of delivering a low crime rate in the District and supporting vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Roddy Hogarth

Contact Officer Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

Recommendation to Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee: Members views are sought.

Recommendation to Cabinet: That the Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan for 2016-17 is approved.

Reason for recommendation: This Action Plan will determine multi-agency work undertaken in the District to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Health, Probation and Kent Police, together with other key partners, to undertake an audit of crime and disorder in the District and co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan for tackling local crime and disorder. The audit is known as the Strategic Assessment.
- 2 The Strategic Assessment undertaken in December 2016 identified eight Community Safety priorities for the District, in no particular order, as follows:

Agenda Item 11

- Anti-Social Behaviour including Environmental Crime
- Organised Crime Groups (OCG)
- Safeguarding (incl Prevent, Gangs, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation, Vulnerable Adults and Protecting Children)
- Road Safety
- Substance Misuse
- Repeat Victims & Location
- Mental Health
- Domestic Abuse

A presentation about the Strategic Assessment will be made at the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 7th March 2017.

- 3 The draft 2017-18 Sevenoaks District Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan attached at the Appendix. It sets out Partnership activity aimed at addressing the above priorities. The Action Plan is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Community Safety Partnership, to ensure that actions are on target and are helping to meet the identified success measures.

Key Implications

Financial

The funding required to deliver the Action Plan comes from the Police and Crime Commissioner and existing SDC Core Budgets and core budgets of participating agencies and other external funding sources as they become available. No additional District Council funding is required to deliver the plan.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal issues for the Council arising from this action plan.

Equality Assessment

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and varies between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan assists with the provision of services to support District residents, including victims of crime.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		No negative impacts identified

Conclusions

- 4 The Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan has been prepared following a strategic assessment of crime and disorder issues and provides a multi-agency approach to those issues.

Appendices

Appendix A - The draft Sevenoaks District Community Safety & Action Plan 2017/18

Background Papers:

The 2016 Strategic Assessment

Lesley Bowles
Chief Officer for Communities and Business

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Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership Annual Action Plan 2017 - 2018 **DRAFT**



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Action Plan 2017-18

Introduction

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership brings together all of the agencies in the District who can have an impact on crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. A list of partners is set out on page 26. The Partnership has 3 key aims. They are to:

- Reduce and detect crime
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- Strengthen community involvement

Each year the Partnership, in common with all of the Community Safety Partnerships in Kent, undertakes an assessment of crime and disorder in the District, using data provided by partners and feedback from residents. The assessment identifies the priority issues for the next year using the following rationale for each community safety type:

- Whether there is significant community concern
- Whether there is an increasing trend
- Whether it contributes to a high volume of crime
- The level of harm it causes
- How well it is performing compared with other parts of Kent and similar partnerships nationally
- Whether the Partnership can add value to the work

This Action Plan identifies where we can best work together to achieve results.

Priority Issues for 2017-18

The Strategic Assessment undertaken during the winter of 2016 has identified 8 priorities for the Partnership to tackle during 2017-18. The data referred to in this Action Plan is based on the Strategic Assessment, and uses data between October 2015 - September 2016, unless otherwise stated. Trends in the identified priorities continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis and the first monitoring will be available in July 2017. Crime types are compared with their “Most Similar Groups” a bench marking group set up by the Home Office, of partnerships thought to have similar characteristics.

The 8 priorities, as ranked in the Strategic Assessment, are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Organised Crime Groups
- Anti-Social Behaviour incl Environmental Crime
- Repeat Victims & Locations
- Safeguarding (incl Prevent, Gangs, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation, Vulnerable Adults and Protecting Children)
- Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety

Although the Partnership’s main focus will be the 8 priorities, it will continue to monitor and plan for trends in crime and other community safety issues and address them through the Community Safety Unit’s daily briefings and other tasking arrangements in order to reduce recorded crime.

The Action Plan

The following pages set out the overall targets for the Community Safety Partnership. The Action Plan does not include details of the numerous activities already undertaken by partners, town and parish councils, the voluntary sector and others as part of their day to day work, but highlights activities in addition to core work, which partners will undertake throughout the forthcoming year. All priorities include actions around public perception and reducing repeat offenders/victims.

Funding and monitoring

Funding for the actions included within the Action Plan is available from a number of sources, including partners' own budgets, Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) funding which is allocated to district Community Safety Partnerships, Choosing Health funding and other small amounts of funding from a variety of sources.

Regular monitoring will take place to ensure that individual projects continue to deliver positive results as well as value for money and that this Action Plan is on target.

Equalities

In preparing the action plan, issues such as equality and diversity were considered to ensure that everybody feels safe in the District.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - ACTION PLAN 2017-18

SUCCESS MEASURES

All recorded crime

All Victim Based Crime reduced compared with the previous year.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Action Plan to be 80% on target

Work with agencies to reduce repeat victims

Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)

Create a baseline of OCG's

Anti-Social Behaviour

An improvement in behaviour achieved in 80% of cases accepted by the Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group.

75% of Anti-Social Behaviour victims satisfied with action taken.

Repeat Victims and Locations

Reduce the number of repeat victims through proactive work in the CSU

Safeguarding

Deliver minimum of 4 training sessions on safeguarding topics

Determine a baseline figure for CSE, Prevent, Gangs, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery cases in the District

Mental Health

Set up a working relationship with Mental Health Service Providers

Substance Misuse

Substance Misuse Action Plan to be 85% on target

Speeding incl Road Safety

Maintain the number of voluntary speed watches and Police enforcement

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The District has the lowest number of Domestic Abuse incidents (1365) ¹, From September 2016, Kent Police stopped providing data for repeat victims. However from 1 October 2015 - 31 August 2016 there were 367 repeat victims (32.9%). **Please note:** Domestic Abuse incidents are not always reported as violence against the person, if there has been no violence recorded. For example if there were a verbal altercation this would be recorded as a Domestic Abuse Incident and not Violence against the Person and that is why the numbers are different.

Domestic abuse incidents in the Sevenoaks District have increased by 33.6%. Domestic Abuse historically is thought to have been considerably under reported. An increase in reporting is therefore to be welcomed and does not necessarily represent an increase in the actual number of incidents.

It is important to remember that these figures are only representative of domestic abuse that was reported to the Police and it is widely recognised that domestic abuse is often unreported. Kent police figures indicate the rates of domestic abuse for Sevenoaks District have been the lowest in Kent for the past three years.

¹ Apparent inconsistency in annual figures arises from the classification of 'incident'. Domestic abuse 'incidents' are not necessarily violent and can refer to verbal disputes which have been reported to Kent Police; as such, not all incidents make it into statistics for violence against the person .

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding	
DOMESTIC ABUSE						
1.1	Raise awareness and sign posting to local and county wide services and resources were including refuges, particularly targeting repeat victims. Raise awareness in key groups (LGBT, Traveler Groups, Ethnic Minorities, FGM, Honour Based Violence, Arranged Marriages & Elderly Abuse).	CSP Domestic Abuse Task Group DAVSS	All Partners KCC Youth Services GPs Health Visiting Service	On going	Existing Budgets	Agenda Item 11
1.2	Support young people to form positive and healthy relationships (to reduce onset of abusive behaviours and break the cycle of abuse.	DAVSS DA Working Group	Imago Early Help (incl Troubled Families)	March 2018	Existing Budgets	
1.3	Work with victims, where the perpetrator has received DVPO/N to provide more support and link in with partners such as Housing Associations.	Police	Housing Association CSU	On-Going	Existing Budgets	
1.4	Arrange a Bi-Monthly meeting to look at standard and medium risk victims of DA to reduce repeat and high risk victims.	Police CSU	Housing Association DAVSS Circle Choices	April 2017	Existing Budgets	
1.5	DA related incidents to be raised at CSU daily briefing for support services to be in place where possible.	Police CSU	DAVSS Choices	April 2017	Existing Budgets	
1.6	DA Campaign for victims to know their rights such as Housing, Benefits	CSU	All	June 2017	Existing Budgets	
1.7	Investigate best practice elsewhere to work with GPs eg Iris Campaign	CRC CSU	All	June 2017	Existing Budgets	

Organised Crime Groups (OCG's)

Organised Crime comes in many forms. Those involved in organised crime don't just commit serious crime, but local crime within the community, whose activities often feed into much more serious crime and serious violence.

Whilst we very rarely see serious violence and crime in this District, criminal activity locally could have these links to organised crime. Local drug dealers sell drugs trafficked into this country by violent criminal gangs, who exploit the most vulnerable people in our society so as not to get caught themselves. A local car thief is likely to be selling what is stolen to fund their own drug habit. Someone breaking into a garden shed will be selling the items other criminals higher up the chain, which then feed into other much more serious crime.

Criminals behind organised crime often intimidate and create fear, which is intended to prevent the local community reporting what they see. Often the criminals behind this don't even have to try hard to do this - instead relying on word of mouth and reputation.

Over the past year Organised Crime has seen a more targeted approach by Partnerships. According to Kent Police there are 7 OCGs with a recorded impact in the Sevenoaks area. The most common crime types associated with these groups is commonly organised theft

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
Organised Crime Groups (OCG's)					
2.1	Work in Partnership to disrupt recognised OCGs and identify existing and emerging groups.	Police SCD	CSU All	March 2018	Existing Budgets
2.2	Map traffic and lines where OCGs are operating and develop multi-agency analysis of intelligence.	Police CSU	All	March 2018	Existing Budgets
2.3	Develop the practices of multi-agency around prosecutions and evictions. Link up procedures	Police CSU	Housing Associations	March 2018	Existing Budgets
2.4	Partnership meetings to be established around OCG's and use the ethos of Protect, Pursue, Prevent and Prepare	CSP	All	June 2017	Existing Budgets
2.5	Deliver training around OCG's to frontline workers, schools and colleges	Police CSU		March 2017	Existing Budgets
2.6	Establish a directory of key partners and appropriate officers	Police	CSU	June 2017	Existing Budgets

Anti-Social Behaviour including Environmental Crime

ASB accounts for the largest recorded issue when compared to individual crime types in the District and makes up 26% of the total recorded figures when included in crime statistics. Figures show 2025 recorded incidents of ASB occurring within the District reported to Kent Police; The District had the 2nd lowest number of ASB reports in Kent, but saw a slight increase of 2.8% (55 reports).

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) Daily tasking's meetings dealt with 806 ASB/Community Safety calls from October 2015 - September 2016. All actions were followed up and residents were kept updated in all actions unless they had reported anonymously. ASB is most prominent community safety issue in the Sevenoaks District, (including environmental issues) and will continue to be a priority for the CSP.

The top wards reporting were Swanley, Edenbridge and Sevenoaks. The top categories were intimidation and harassment this is followed by reports of noise and then Nuisance Behaviour. Calls by type are always higher than reports received as residents can report more than one type at a time.

The ASB Officer attends the daily tasking meeting within the CSU and also received 212 calls through the Council. All calls were responded to and dealt with by the ASB Officer separately or with partner agencies when needed.

SDC CCTV

During this last year from 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016 the CCTV control room at Sevenoaks District Council assisted the police with 66 arrests for this period; this is a decrease from the previous year of 49 arrests. The main reason for the drop is the reduction of police recourses available.

West Kent Housing

West Kent received over 400 complaints of anti social behaviour for the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016. Increases in reported anti social behaviour for the same period were identified in alcohol related, criminal behaviour, drugs and Hate Related incidents.

SDC Environmental Health

There has been a decrease in number of noise complaints logged from 588 to 563 (approx. 4.2% decrease 25 reports). October 2015 to September 2016.

Statistics show that the summer months of July, August and September remain Environmental Health's busiest months. Numbers of complaints received during July & August are almost double the number in comparison to the preceding months. The largest numbers of complaints are about loud music, barking dogs and noise from Brands Hatch.

SDC Direct Services

Fly tipping has seen a slight rise this year and remains one of the most prominent issues. The Sevenoaks District Direct Services at SDC saw for the period October 2015- September 2016 - 1326 reports of fly tipping (17.8% increase, 201 more reports). It is worth noting that an increase in reports does not necessarily indicate an increase in incidents, with often more than one report per incident. Of which 844 of these were removed. Ones that could not be removed were either on private property or fly tipping not found.

Abandoned vehicles have increased over the last year, with 298 reports (120 more than same period last year totalling 67%) being made to SDC of which 53 vehicles being removed. The low proportion of vehicles removed is in the most part due to the vast majority of those vehicles reported either being driven or declared SORN (Statutory off Road Notice) and parked off-road.

Graffiti

Graffiti reports to the Council have increased by 35% (7 reports) this year with 27 recorded incidents (incl offensive). There were 29 offensive graffiti reports between October 2015 and September 2016 all of which were removed within the 48 hour deadline set by Sevenoaks District Council. (This was 18 more than same period last year totalling 163%). This is mainly due to a serial offender in Dunton Green.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR Incl ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME					
3.1	Increase number of prosecutions for fly tipping through camera deployment. Awareness campaigns through local Charters (modelled on Keep Britain Tidy pilots) and prioritise hotspots	KCC Clean Kent CSU	KCC Wardens PCSOs Housing Assoc	March 2018	Existing Budgets
3.2	Improve information sharing between partners on vulnerable persons e.g. their need, issues, locations	CSU	NHS Housing Assoc KFRS	March 2018	Existing Budgets
3.3	County wide Case Management System. Continue with Themis development with other partners	Police	Housing Assoc KCC Wardens	March 2018	Existing Budgets
3.4	The Partnership to work together on the ASB Powers to reduce the number of ASB incidents being reported	CSU	All	March 2018	Existing Budgets
3.5	Use Social Media sites to promote successes (Twitter, Facebook, Streetlife)	CSU	All	March 2018	Existing Budgets
3.6	Set up Task and Finish Groups to deliver a focused approach on reducing repeat ASB	CSU	All	On Going	Existing Budgets
3.7	A positive publicity campaign regarding ASB matters for the community	CSU	All	March 2018	Existing Budgets

REPEAT VICTIMS AND LOCATIONS

Repeat Victims and Locations has become a priority throughout 2015-16 through the CSU daily taskings and Police data. Many calls have been received from the same areas and Task and Finish Groups have been set up, but this needs a more Partnership approach to tackle this. Housing Associations have also seen an increase in tackling repeat victims and locations

During this time there have been 12 Task and Finish Groups and increase compared to the previous period last year.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
REPEAT VICTIMS AND LOCATIONS					
4.1	Develop multi agency training around working with repeat victims	CSU	CSP	March 2018	Existing Budgets
4.2	Set up a shared database around repeat victims and locations	CSU KFRS	All Partners	June 2017	Existing Budgets
4.3	Multi agency approach to tackling offenders who target repeat victims	CSU	All Partners	June 2017	Existing Budgets
4.4	Address illegal raves around vulnerable locations within the District	Police	CSU	March 2018	Existing Budgets
4.5	Work with IPAG on vulnerable victims and locations	Police	CSU	On Going	Existing Budgets

SAFEGUARDING including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Vulnerable Adults and Children, Gangs, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and Prevent

Safeguarding includes Young People, Vulnerable Adults, CSE, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Prevent, Care Act, Missing Children and Gangs.

New legislation places a statutory duty on local councils as well as some of the other partner agencies to protect the vulnerable under these crimes. It is also a major contributor to the Kent Police Strategy. The above are a community concern especially in recent media coverage.

Data has been very limited but come November 2016, Morile data will be shared around the above. Data that has been made available is Counter Terrorism. Levels of threat are very low in the District. There have been 4 referrals made between April 2015 - March 2016 and the District has the 7th lowest number of referrals across Kent.

According to Kent Police there have been 6 reports of CSE in the Sevenoaks District.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
SAFEGUARDING (incl Prevent, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Gangs, Vulnerable Adults and Children)					
5.1	Deliver multi-agency Prevent training. Lead on promotion of Prevent to communities	CSU	CSP	March 2018	Existing Budgets
5.2	Promote Prevent message and training among voluntary sector	CSU	All KCSB	June 2017	Existing Budgets
5.3	Continue to raise profile of CSE and Safeguarding generally and that it is now much more complex and wide ranging among staff and communities	CSU KCSB	All Partners	June 2017	Existing Budgets
5.4	Allocate a lead co-ordinator for actions agreed Task Group for vulnerable adults identified by partners	CSU CCG Quality Team	All Partners	Ongoing	Existing Budgets
5.5	Find out Safeguarding Lead in each agency	CSU	All	December 2017	Existing Budgets
5.6	Work with Police on their Control Strategy especially working with car washes and nail salons within the District	Police	CSU	March 2018	Existing Budgets
5.7	Work with families who have been identified as vulnerable, edge of care, seeking asylum to help provide support	KCC Social Care Early Help	CSP	March 2018	Existing Budgets

Mental Health

Mental Health has proved a concern for the Partnership. Many issues that come throughout the priorities have a link to mental health. However Mental Health Services/Providers are not a key player in the CSU, but should be and that link needs to be made.

Data has been very limited on how many people with a form of mental health links into crime, asb and safeguarding, but continues to be dealt with by agencies in silo and takes up a lot of time and resources. It has been deemed a priority through the CSP and LSP to take forward a joint approach and initiative.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
Mental Health					
6.1	Identify 10 individuals most in contact with agencies eg Community MARAC for mental health	MOAT CSU CCG	All	April 2017	Existing Budgets
6.2	Closer integration of partnership process. Identify SPOC for Mental Health. Add into daily process and evaluate after 6 months.	Police CSP CCG KCC	CSP	December 2017	Existing Budgets
6.3	Knowledge of organisations structures and contacts. Directory on line and updated regularly	CSU	All	April 2017	Existing Budgets
6.4	Publish existing directories such as Live It Well website, West Kent Dementia Roadmap	Mental Health Working Group		June 2017	Existing Budgets
6.5	Address high instances of self harm among teenagers through published data	Public Health LCPB	All	Ongoing	Existing Budgets
6.6	Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Training for front line workers	CSU Health Hub	All	June 2017	Existing Budgets
6.7	HERO workers making appropriate referrals, accessing early prevention for people presenting housing issues	SDC Housing	CSU	April 2017	Existing Budgets

Drugs

Since April 2013, drug offences are no longer recorded in the Victim Based Crime figures released by Kent Police. However, figures collated in I Quanta show total drug possession are up 10% (5 offences) with 55 recorded this year.

Kent Police has provided rolling data on Drug Offences and this has also seen a decrease of 10% (15 offences from 148 to 133).

1 September 2014 - 31 August 2015 there were a total of 321 hospital admissions from 238 individuals for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (including alcohol and drugs) in the District. This is the second lowest figure in Kent, but an increase from the previous year. There is no current data.

Illegal Highs

Illegal highs are substances that have similar effects to drugs like cocaine or cannabis. They are sometimes called club drugs or new psychoactive substances (NPS).

In 2016, a new Act came in making these substances illegal. Currently there is no baseline data for the Sevenoaks District.

Alcohol

Until recently, alcohol misuse was measured using alcohol attributable hospital admission rates which have been increasing year on year on a District and County level². It is generally felt that these rates no longer accurately reflect alcohol admission trends as some 'attributable' conditions have undergone massive rises in admission rates over recent years.

² Kent has seen a steady increase of alcohol related hospital admissions over the past ten years and alcohol remains the most common substance for those seeking treatment; this year (June 2012 to May 2013) hospital admissions for evidence of alcohol involvement by Blood Alcohol has seen a Countywide increase of 76 (8.2%). Sevenoaks has seen the sharpest rise in numbers during this period (45.5%, 25 additional residents), making a total of 80 alcohol related hospital admissions this year.

Commissioned Services

CRI work closely with a range of partner agencies to improve outcomes for substance misusers. Greensands, a supported housing project in Sevenoaks, is assisted by CRI through the provision of group work and peer support to residents for their substance misuse. A joint working programme has also been developed with Sevenoaks area MIND, to deliver CRI programmes on a weekly basis to Greensands residents and a bi-weekly drop in and referral service for MIND service users. This will facilitate better access to drug and alcohol services for these clients.

Addaction are commissioned by Public Health to deliver services to young people.

The CSP also funds Kenward Trust to deliver Substance Misuse Youth Services Tier 1 and 2. October 15 - September 16 they have engaged with over 200 young people, visited over 20 hotspots that have been a community concern and engaged with schools to deliver substance misuse projects.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
SUBSTANCE MISUSE					
7.1	Investigate after care (Substance Misuse Liaison Officer) for anyone attending A&E for alcohol and drug related incidents. Also link in with Domestic Abuse.	CCG	CSU Children's Commissioning YOS Adult Safeguarding	June 2017	PCC Joint Bid
7.2	Deliver outreach work to designated areas to address illegal highs, cannabis, alcohol and vaping. Link with mapping of where to buy vape liquid	Kenward Trust	CSU Trading Standards SDC Licensing	On Going	Existing budgets
7.3	Training of front line staff on legislation around illegal highs, drugs, alcohol and vaping. Training to include information from Public Health	CSU	Public Health CGL CCG Kenward Trust Addaction	On Going	Existing Budgets
7.4	Targeted projects on drugs and alcohol highlighted through Public Health data	Public Health CSU	CGL CCG Kenward Trust Addaction	March 2018	Existing Budgets
7.5	Increase session work in schools, develop cascade and mentoring project	Kenward Trust	Schools LCGP	March 2018	Existing Budgets
7.6	Investigate with CLG for drop in sessions in the Sevenoaks District	CLG	CSU	April 2017	Existing Budgets

Road Traffic Accidents

Throughout Sevenoaks there are major trunk roads i.e. M25/A21 which facilitate the majority of traffic through the District. Unfortunately the figures for major trunk roads and local roads are not available separately and therefore include both local roads and major roads.

Data Summary

Fatal: 4 ↑ Serious: 3 ↓ Slight: 25 ↓ Total: 24 ↓

Currently 27 casualties (57%) above 2020 target of 47 casualties

Highest KSI per district in county - in part due to the extensive HE network in district.

Highest car occupant KSIs in the county: 17-24 and 25-34 key age group.

Highest motorcycle KSIs in the county: 500cc and above for 45-54 and 50-125cc for young riders. Particularly prominent on KCC roads.

Driver/rider error or behaviour - most common cause for collisions.

Speed Watch

Speeding and perception of speed is a high concern for residents across the District and has featured in PACT Panel's action plans.

Speed Watch training has worked well in the District with residents being trained by Kent Police to monitor the speed of vehicles passing through their community.

Priority Action		Lead Agency	Other Partners	By When	Funding
ROAD SAFETY					
8.1	Minimum of 4 Multi-Agency events to address speed enforcement	Police KFRS KCC Wardens	CSU All Partners	March 2018	Existing resources
8.2	Continue to deliver Speed Watch across the District	CSU	Police	March 2018	Existing resources KFRS
8.3	Enforcement in key areas such as speeding, drink/drug driving, mobile phones	Police	CSU	Sept 2017	Existing Budgets
8.4	Work with KFRS on delivering their Road Safety Action Plan across the District	KFRS	CSU	March 2018	KFRS
8.5	Police to uptake a minimum of 10 speed enforcement operations in partnership with Speed Watch sites	Police	CSU	March 2018	Police

GLOSSARY:

ASB - Anti-Social Behaviour

CCTV - Closed Circuit Television

CDAP - Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme

CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation

CSP - Community Safety Partnership

CSU - Community Safety Unit

DAVSS - Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services

KCC - Kent County Council

KCSB - Kent Children's Safeguarding Board

KFRS - Kent Fire & Rescue Service

LCPB - Local Children's Partnership Board

MSG - A Group of Partnerships thought by the Home Office to have similar characteristics and used for benchmarking purposes

PCC - Police & Crime Commissioner

SDC - Sevenoaks District Council

SPOC - Single Point of Contact

YOS - Youth Offending Service

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership and contact details

Sevenoaks District Council Argyle Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1GP Tel: 01732 227000 Web: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk	Kent Police 1 Pembury Road Tonbridge Kent TN9 2HS Tel: 01622 690690 Web: www.kent.police.uk	Kent Fire & Rescue Service West Group HQ Sevenoaks Fire Station London Road, Sevenoaks Tel: 01622 692121 Web: www.kent.fire-uk.org	Police & Crime Commissioner Kent Police Headquarters Sutton Road Maidstone ME15 9BZ Tel: 01622 677055 Web: www.kentpa.kent.police.uk
NHS West Kent CCG Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road Tonbridge Kent TN9 1RE Tel: 01732 375200 Web: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk	Kent Surrey and Sussex CRC Ltd Maidstone Corporate Centre 3 rd Floor, Maidstone House King Street Maidstone Kent, ME15 6AW Tel: 01622 239147 Website: www.ksscrc.co.uk	KCC Social Services Worrall House 30 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling Tel: 0300 041 1400 Web: www.kent.gov.uk	KCC Children, Families and Education The Willows Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BT Tel: 0300 041 1400 Web: www.kent.gov.uk
Imago 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1LS Tel: 01892 530330 Web: www.imago.org.uk	KCC Youth Service Area Youth Officer C/o Swanley Youth Centre St. Mary's Road Swanley Kent BR8 7BU Tel 01322 615275 Web: www.kent.gov.uk	KCC Trading Standards Public Protection 1st Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX Web: www.kent.gov.uk	KCC Community Safety KFRS Station Loose Road Loose Kent Web: www.kent.gov.uk
West Kent Housing Association 101 London Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1AX Tel: 01732 749400 Web: www.westkent.org	Kenward Trust Kenward Road Yalding, Maidstone Kent ME18 6AH Tel: 01622 814187 Web: www.kenwardtrust.org.uk	MOAT Homes Galleon Boulevard Crossways Dartford Kent DA2 6QE Tel: 0845 600 1006 Web: www.moat.co.uk	West Kent Extra 101 London Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1AX Tel: 01732 749400 Web: www.westkent.org

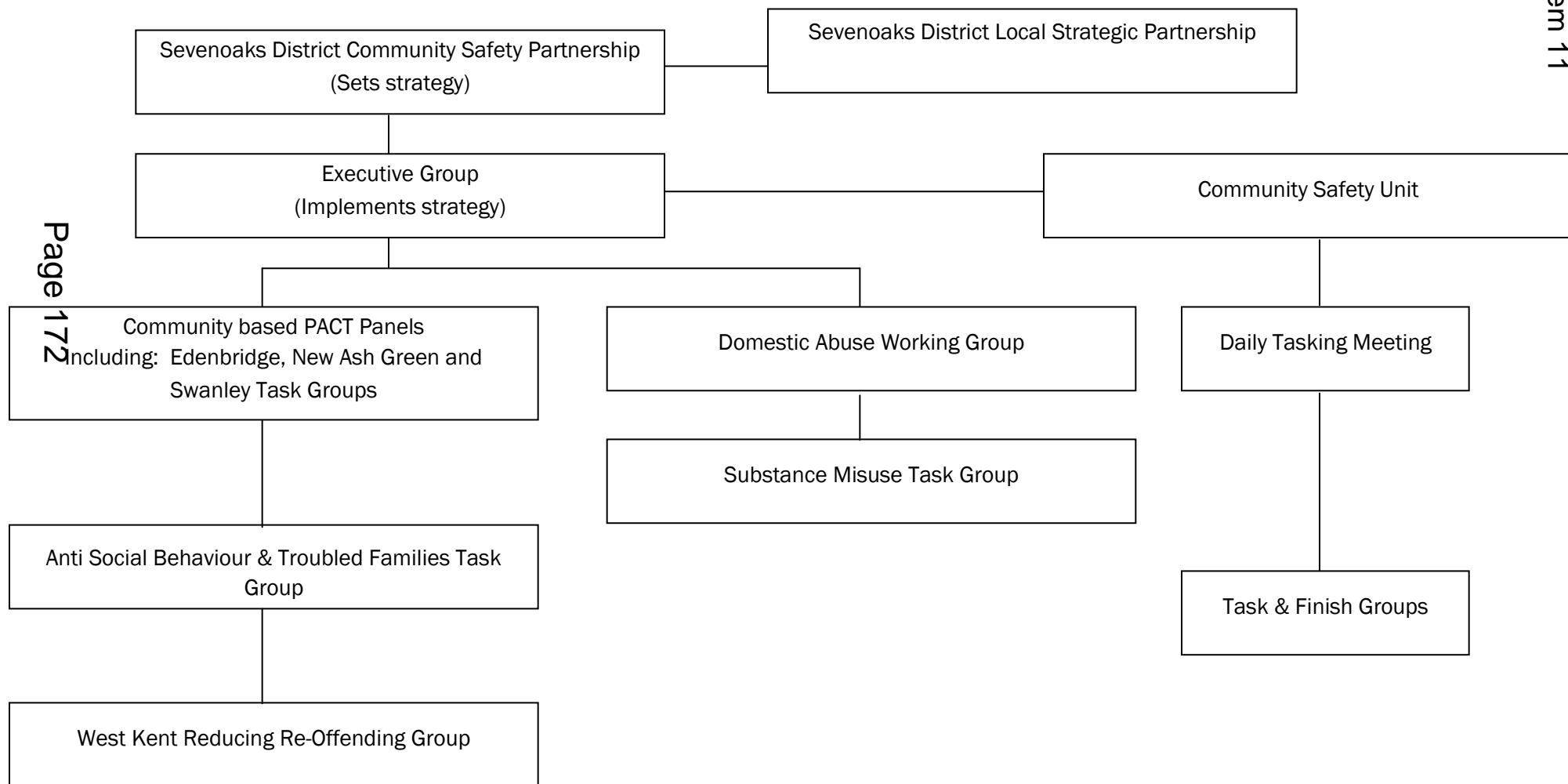
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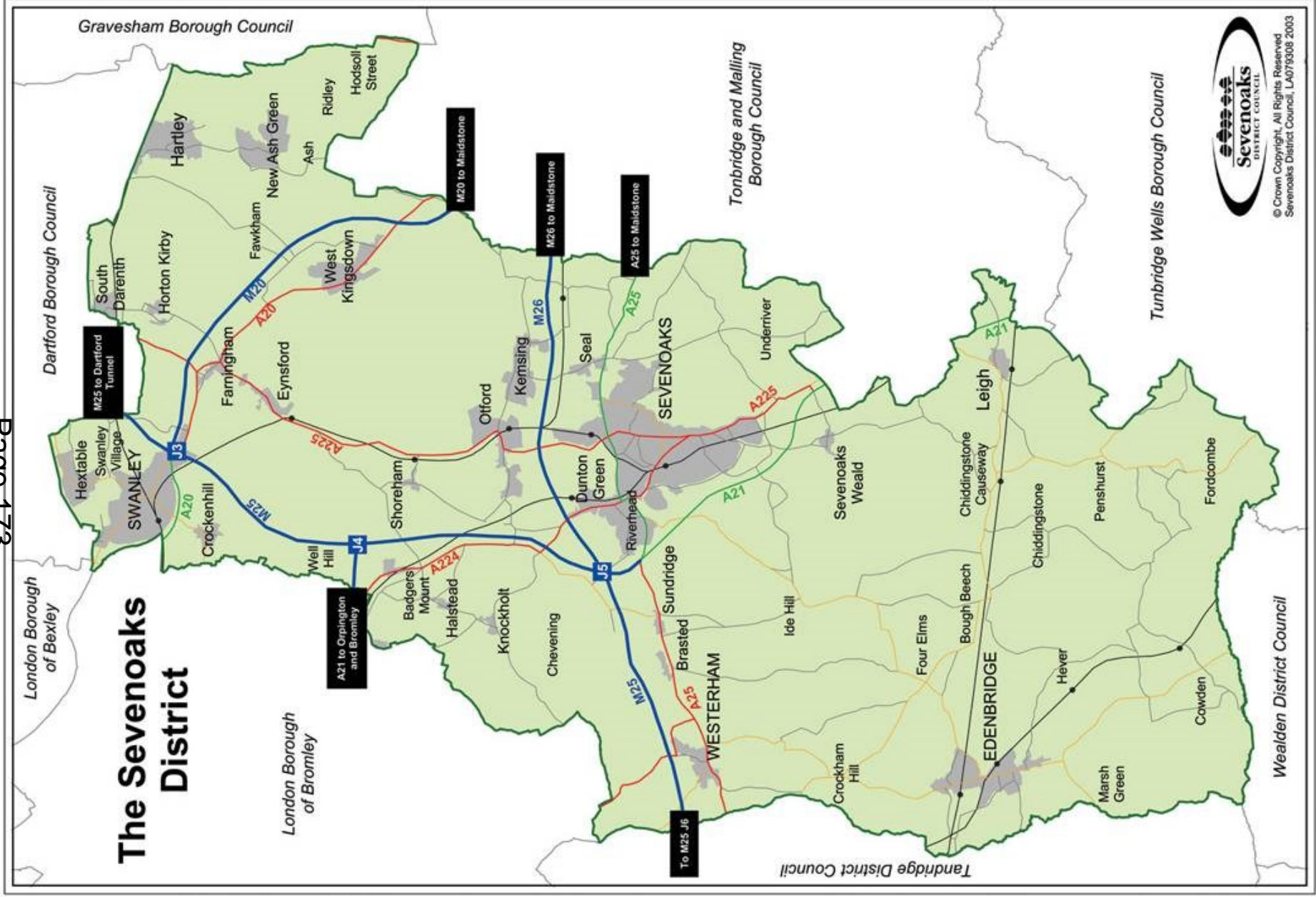
Terms of Reference

The Partnership's terms of reference are to:

- Undertake periodic reviews of community safety in the District and disseminate the findings to the public
- Develop a yearly strategy and action plan to tackle community safety
- Monitor and report progress in meeting the agreed targets and actions
- Secure resources and funding from parent organisations and others for projects to address agreed shared priorities in the Community Safety Action Plan
- Act as a forum for discussion of topical local community safety issues and agree follow up actions if appropriate
- Promote community safety in the District in conjunction with other local organisations and bodies
- Co-ordinate and maintain an overview of all activities relevant to community safety in the District.

Structure of Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership





Enquiries to:

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