

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES FOR 2015/16 – RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Cabinet – 5 February 2015

Report of: Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For decision

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: This report informs Members of the outcome of the public consultation for the proposed increases to car park charges and proposed changes to on-street operational times for 2015/16.

This report supports the Key Aim of the effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. R Hogarth

Contact Officer(s) Gary Connor x7310

Recommendation to Cabinet: It be RESOLVED that:

Members confirm whether any of the proposed car park charges or changes to operational times for car parks and on-street parking approved by Cabinet on 13 November 2014 should be amended in light of consultation responses, with a view to implementing the proposals on or as soon after 1 April 2015.

Reason for recommendation: to meet the Council's budgets for parking for 2015/16.

Introduction and Background

- 1 On 13 November 2014, Members of Cabinet considered and approved proposals for increasing certain parking charges to contribute to the Council's overall budget target for 2015/16.
- 2 A proposal to remove the £1.00 evening charge, which applies from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Sevenoaks town centre car parks, replacing it by extending the daytime charges through to 8.30pm was included, along with a proposal to amend the time of operation for on-street pay and display parking areas in Sevenoaks town centre to finish at 8.30pm to suit.
- 3 This report concerns objections and comments received in respect to the proposals following public consultation to amend the Council's Car Parks Order and on-street Traffic Regulation Order.
- 4 For Members' information, a summary of the car park charge proposals approved for consultation by Cabinet on 13 November is attached as Appendix A.

- 5 For information, in relation to parking in the vicinity of rail stations, the charges for parking in the car parks operated on behalf of Southeastern Trains have been revised since the report to Cabinet last November. The day charges are now as follows: £6.80 at Sevenoaks, £6.10 at Swanley and £3.60 at Knockholt station. Annual season ticket charges at Sevenoaks are now £1,193.50 for Car Park 4 (off Morewood Close) and £1,503.50 for Car Park 1 (adjacent the station).

Consultation Responses

- 6 The public consultation period ended on 21 January 2015, although a week's extension to 28 January was given to Consultees to address late notification. In addition to the advertisement of the Public Notice in the local newspaper and in the car parks and on-street areas, letters were sent to all season ticket holders advising them of the proposals.
- 7 At the time of preparing this report, 94 emails have been received in response to the consultation. These include a response from the Sevenoaks Town Partnership (see comment 93 in Appendix C) and from the Sevenoaks Town Council (see comment 94). A summary of consultation responses received is attached as Appendix B. The comments received are attached in full, i.e. in verbatim, in Appendix C for Members' perusal and consideration.
- 8 Should any further responses be received from the Consultees between the time of preparing this report and the deadline of 28 January, these will be reported at the time of the meeting.
- 9 Where responses have contained comments relating to more than one of the subject areas, these have been recorded separately against each area and, hence, the total comments in the table below will total more than the number of emails received.

Subject	Number of Comments
Parking charges – Sevenoaks town	74
Evening parking charge – general areas	49
Evening parking charge – re: the Stag Theatre	19
Parking charges – Sevenoaks station	1
Season ticket charge – Sevenoaks station	2
Lack of long stay parking – Sevenoaks	2
On-street parking times of operation – Sevenoaks town	1

Other Changes to the Car Park Order

- 10 On the 17 December 2014, the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development approved the inclusion of other changes to the Car Park Order. These related to the removal of the Pembroke Road car park from the Order; the inclusion of a parking area in Orchard Close, Sevenoaks to enable enforcement activities; the inclusion of additional clauses to clarify the use and enforcement of delivery areas and loading and unloading activities; and the inclusion of a new clause to clarify the enforcement of contraventions which occur over more than one day. The report to the Portfolio Holder is attached as Appendix D for further information.
- 11 No comments or objections have been received in respect to these proposals and, therefore, the changes will be implemented as part of the Order change for the car park charges.

Changes to the On-Street Road Traffic Order

- 12 Should the operational times for the car park charges in Sevenoaks town centre be amended from 9.30pm, Members are advised that consideration should be given to amending the operational time of the on-street pay and display areas in the town centre to suit. Such proposals were advertised for public consultation as a proposed amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order to coincide with the proposed changes to the Car Park Order.
- 13 At the time of drafting this report, no objections have been received in relation to the on-street change. However, a request for a change to the times of operation was received from the Sevenoaks Town Council (see comment 94 in Appendix C) .
- 14 Members of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board will be informed of the change, should it go ahead, by way on an information item to the next meeting of the Board.

Key Implications

Financial

- 15 The proposals contribute to the budget provisions for parking for 2015/16.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 16 There are set legal processes in respect to amending or implementing new parking charges and these are being followed.
- 17 Once the parking charges to be adopted for 2015/16 are confirmed, the Order making process can be completed with a view to implementation on, or soon after, 1 April 2015.
- 18 By not adopting the charging proposals approved, or by failing to provide alternatives, the budget expectations for parking income for 2015/16 might not be realised.

Equality Impacts

- 19 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.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 20 The introduction of increased parking charge is likely to have an impact to varying degree upon those people from the local community and visitors from outside the district who use the parking facilities, although it is impossible to quantify any likely resultant effect. Rather than pay any higher charges, people may instead decide to park for shorter periods, may lessen the frequency of their visits or may choose to go elsewhere.

Appendices

- Appendix A Car Park and On-Street charges approved for consultation.
- Appendix B Consultation responses summary.
- Appendix C Consultation responses.
- Appendix D Report on Amendments to the Car Park Order dated 17 December 2014 to the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development.

Background Papers:

The proposed Sevenoaks District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment 4) Order 2010.

The proposed Kent County Council (Various Roads in the District of Sevenoaks) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading & Unloading and On-Street Parking Places) (Amendment 11) Order.

Mr Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental and Operations Services