

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING MANAGEMENT 2022-23 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Cabinet - 7 July 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - Finance & Trading

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary This report informs Members of the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed changes to the on-street and off-street (car park) parking fees and charges in the annual review of parking management 2022-23 approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 April 2022

This report supports the Key Aim of: supporting and developing the local economy, providing value for money, and working towards Sevenoaks District Councils Net Zero ambitions

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Recommendation to Cabinet: It is recommended that:

- a) the report be noted;
- b) following consideration of the responses to the public consultation, the revised parking management arrangements for 2022/23 be agreed by Cabinet.

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

Background

- 1 At its meeting on 21 April 2022, Cabinet considered and agreed for public consultation on a proposal for changes to the on-street and off-street (car park) parking fees and charges in the annual review of parking management 2022-23.
- 2 The proposal (Appendix 3) for a flexible multi-year approach, to be continued to be employed, to allow the Council, as a local parking provider, to be responsive to economic cycles as well as the needs of its customers and communities.
- 3 The proposals have been developed to support the local economy, further advance the District Council's move to Net Zero 2030 and support the local economy, they embrace the most up-to-date thinking on parking management.
- 4 The traditional approach to parking sees price used as a means of maintaining a high turnover of short stay spaces, maximising the usage of each bay. However, shopping habits have evolved following the pandemic and high streets continue to move towards focussing increasingly on experiences in favour of solely traditional retail. These shifts see people seeking long stay parking, who, in turn, can then spend more time taking advantage of all our towns have to offer. Furthermore, it is recognised the encouragement of lots of short visits would promote vehicle movements, thus risking having an adverse impact on air quality. We are therefore eager to keep abreast of these changes and support our town centres by rebalancing parking charges in favour of longer stays, whilst also ensuring there remains something for everyone.
- 5 The existing and proposed changes to the on-street parking fees and charges are detailed in Appendix 2
- 6 Many of the parking places where rises to the parking fees and charges are proposed have previously been frozen for between six and eight years.
- 7 In accordance with legislation, a public consultation about the proposed changes was undertaken over a 3-week period.
- 8 This report informs Members of the outcome of the public consultation, before a final decision is made on whether to proceed with the implementation of the proposed changes in the annual review of parking management arrangements for 2022-23

Consultation

- 9 For the public consultation, a public Notice of Variation was placed in each the streets and parking places affected and advertised in the local press on 19 May 2022, inviting comments on the proposed changes by noon on 10 June 2022.

- 10 The Notice of Variation and an online questionnaire was also placed on the parking consultations page Council’s website.
- 11 In the interests of added publicity, letters about the proposed changes were also sent to all current holders of resident and non-resident parking permits and season tickets affected by the proposed changes.
- 12 During the 3-week public consultation, a total of 261 responses were received; 66 of which related to the proposed changes to the on-street and 195 to the proposed off-street (car park) parking fees and charges.
- 13 Of the responses received, 4 supported and 62 objected to the proposed changes to the on-street parking fees and charges, and 4 supported and 191 objected to the off-street (car park) ones.
- 14 The main themes of the objections were:
 - Charges too expensive
 - Increases too high
 - Timing of the increases, especially in context of current economic climate
 - Detrimental effects of increases to the towns and the local economies, and migration to online shopping
 - Visitors and shoppers would be deterred from visiting the towns
 - Parking was cheaper or free elsewhere

Breakdown of the responses, by postcode	
Postcode area	%
BR8 - Swanley	4
TN8 - Edenbridge	2
TN13 - Sevenoaks	31
TN14 - Sevenoaks	30
TN15 - Sevenoaks	12
TN16 - Westerham	18
Postcode outside of district	3

Key Implications

Financial

The Council’s ten-year budget includes inflationary assumptions, which must be met, and Members remain committed to an exciting programme of investment in parking provision, which is a discretionary service.

The proposed changes to the fees and charges approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 April 2022 are estimated to satisfy these requirements.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The proposed changes to parking fees and charges have been subject to statutory public consultation by means of a notice of variation issued pursuant to Sections

35C and 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Regulation 25 of Part V of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and in accordance with the Parking Places (Variation of Charges) Act 2017.

The main risks to implementing the proposed changes to parking fees and charges is the on-street and off-street (car park) parking places becoming uncompetitive, thereby resulting in a reduction in usage and income, as well as parking displacement to other un-restricted or cheaper/free parking locations.

Equality Assessment

There is a low risk that the proposals in this report would have any implications under the Equality Act 2010.

Allowing free parking for vehicles displaying a valid disabled persons' blue badge in the on-street and off-street (car park) parking places helps to increase social inclusion by removing barriers to access.

Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The decisions recommended in this paper directly impact on this ambition. The impact has been reviewed and there could be a slight decrease on carbon emissions produced in the District as a result of this decision.

Increasing parking fees and charges could encourage car park users to find alternative travel and transport options, such as walking and cycling.

Conclusions

The proposed changes and the consultation feedback to the on-street and off-street (car park) parking fees and charges in the annual review of parking management 2022-23 approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 April 2022 are detailed within the Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | Summary of Consultation feedback |
| Appendix 2 | Existing and proposed changes to the off-street parking fees and charges in the annual review of parking management 2022-23 |
| Appendix 3 | Introduction to the Parking Proposal |

Background Papers

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27)

[The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders \(Procedure\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1996/1013)

[Parking Places \(Variation of Charges\) Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/11)

[Cabinet Report - 21 April 2022 - Parking Management Review - Item 106](#)

Consultation responses to proposed on & off Street parking fees & charges

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