

## **Item 06 – Annual Parking Fees & Charges 2024-25**

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 10 October 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

### **Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (10 October 2023, Minute 21)**

The Chairman presented the report, which set out the review of parking fees and charges for 2024/25. The review proposed changes to the hours of operation and charges in on- and off-street parking schemes, to support the local economy and services for residents. Increases were required to address rising operational costs, such as insurance and non-domestic rates. These increases would also be reinvested in the Council's car parks to ensure the assets remained safe and fit for purpose.

An additional £140,000 is required from parking fees following the 10-year budget agreed at Full Council on 9 February 2023, and recognising the current income levels. The Head of Direct Services outlined the options presented within the report. He corrected an error within Appendix B; Blighs car park charges were £1.00/30 minutes, £2/1hr, £4/2hr, £6/3hr, and £10/4hr. In response to questions, the officer outlined the changes in the parking demand. There were fewer commuters parking at sites every working day, as hybrid working arrangements have become more widespread. Premium parking was busier in the week than it had been previously. The options presented were data-based and aimed to minimise the impact of increases on local businesses, staff, and residents.

Members discussed the balance between the Council's Net Zero ambitions, which would encourage other forms of travel, and budget considerations. It was noted that the Sevenoaks District Council's Argyle Road car park would remain free to park in at weekends.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Resolved: That

- a) the parking management proposals be considered; and
- b) That it be recommended to Cabinet that Option 3 be considered as the preferred option, prior to consultation.