

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING FEES & CHARGES 2025/26

Cabinet – 14 November 2024

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

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee – 11 November 2024

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: This report is the annual review of parking management for 2025/26. It proposes fees and charges for on and off street parking schemes to be increased by inflation only.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Irene Roy

Contact Officer: Trevor Kennett, Ext. 7407

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Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee: That the parking management proposals detailed in this report be considered by the Committee, and its views be submitted for consideration by Cabinet.

Recommendation to Cabinet: That the parking management proposal detailed in this report for parking fees and charges for 2025/26 along with any proposals submitted by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee be considered and approved for consultation.

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.

Background

- 1.0 The Council operates a number of public car parks and on-street pay and display facilities in towns and villages across the District. It is important to regulate these finite resources in order to balance the needs of parking users, including commuters, local businesses, residents, shoppers and other visitors including tourists. It is also important to ensure all parking fees and charges are set consistently across the district.
- 2.0 The Council's approach has been to ensure our parking charges are set to encourage people to use parking spaces responsibly while at the same time promoting a good turnover of parking spaces for the benefit of businesses and visitors. Parking charges are one aspect of effective parking management; however, others – such as hours and days of operation and maximum stay periods – also kept under review.
- 3.0 For 2025/26, it is considered that we will continue to exceed performance on generated income, look for further efficiencies in expenditure, and increase usage within car parks, which will generate more income and increase enforcement. It is estimated that all of these measures will help offset the Covid-19 assumed reduction. However, the inflationary increase will need finding through increasing parking fees and charges for 2025/26.
- 4.0 The additional pressure of rising operational costs such as business rates, insurance, general maintenance, utilities, enforcement, security and Improvements to safety barriers, increasing capacity, resurfacing, renewing drainage and upgrading lighting have an effect on expenditure.
- 5.0 Recent benchmarking with other Kent Council's show that the majority of councils are raising their parking fees and charges by around 3% to cover inflation and rising costs.
- 6.0 Therefore, the assumption for parking income increases in the 10-year budget approved by Council on 20 February 2024 for 2025/26 is as follows:

Inflationary Increase (2.5%)	Covid: Assumed 25% reduction in 2021/22, improving by 5% per year until 2026/27	Adjustment for exceeding budget performance, further efficiencies, increased usage & enforcement for 2025/26	Total
£100,000	£206,000	(£206,000)	£100,000

Fees & Charges Comparisons

7.0 Research and benchmarking has been carried out to compare our current fees and charges to those of neighbouring authorities.

Authority	Shopping	Town Centre	Commuter
Sevenoaks District Council	Blighs Car Park	Sevenoaks Multi-Story car park	Bradbourne Road car park
Weekly hourly rate	30 mins - £1 1 hour - £2 2 hours - £4 3 hours - £6 4 hours - £10 (maximum stay)	Up to 5 hours - £4.50 All day - £5.50	1 hour - £1.50 2 hours - £2.50 3 hours - £3.50 4 hours - £4.50 All day - £8
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Royal Victoria Place Car Park	Crescent Road Car Park	Great Hall Car Park
Weekly hourly rates	1 hour £2 2 hours £3 3 hours £4 4 hours £5 All day - £10.40	1 hour £2 2 hours £3 3 hours £4 4 hours £5 All day - £7	1 hour £2 2 hours £3 3 hours £4 4 hours £5 All day - £10.40
Dartford Borough Council	Orchard car park	Acacia & Mansion House Car Park	Dartford Station Car Park
	1 hour £1 2 hours £2 3 hours £3 4 hours £4 All day - £10	Up to 2 hours - £1.00 2 to 4 hours - £2.00 Over 4 hours - £5.50	All day only £8.10
Tonbridge & Malling Council	Sovereign Way Mid car park	Lower Castle Field car park, Tonbridge	Angel West car park, Tonbridge
	1 hour £1.60 2 hours £3.00 3 hours £4.10 6 hours £6.20 All day - £7	1 hour £1.60 2 hours £3.00 3 hours £4.10 6 hours £6.20 All day - £7	1 hour £1.60 2 hours £3.00 3 hours £4.10 6 hours £6.20 All day - £7

Options

- 8.0 Caveat on all options based on assumptions and estimates in relation to parking behaviour and any potential income that generates.
- 9.0 The following options, provide information on estimates to generate the remaining increase required of £100,000.
- 10.0 Option 1 – Overall percentage Inflationary increase on all parking fees and charges
- This option would require:
- 11.0 For example, a 3% increase could raise £100,000 (based on Trailing Twelve Month {TTM} average).
- 12.0 Option 2 – Do nothing
- 13.0 This option would not meet the agreed 10-year budget requirements and savings would need to be made in other areas.

Key Implications

Financial

All options that contain financial implications detailed within this report.

Parking income, usage, efficiencies and increased enforcement in 2025/26 currently forecast to exceed the budget including the 5% annual increase in the budget and inflation.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

All parking fees and charges are subject to statutory public consultation and a notice of variation in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Parking Places (Variation of Charges) Act 2017. No Statutory consultation will be required for 2025/26.

Equality Assessment

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

Sevenoaks District Council supports the Blue Badge Scheme allowing free parking in all of its off-street car parks and in on-street pay and display bays.

Climate Change Implications

