

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: EVENING PARKING CHARGES
DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2013
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with a summary of the progress on the proposals to charge a £2 flat rate to park on-street between 6pm and 8pm and in Council surface car parks between 6pm and midnight. The reduction in the cost of overnight annual car park season tickets from £250 to £150 and the increase in the maximum period of stay in the Red Zone to 2 hours. Other changes include the parking zone designation of some roads in the City centre and the hours of operation of The Polygon Residents Parking Zone.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The Cabinet, on 16th July, delegated authority to the Head of Transport, Highways and Parking, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to determine detailed proposals, including costs, permit schemes and advertise Traffic Regulation Orders for evening charges.
2. The proposals were advertised on the 30th August. Two separate proposals were advertised, one covering the on-street proposals and one covering the off street ones.
3. In response to the formal consultation, the Council has received 283 representations (including a petition with 169 signatures) with concerns or objections, which are being summarised and reviewed at the time of writing this report. Further representations are expected and so a full analysis has not been possible.
4. Responses have been received from the following faith groups, associations, societies and businesses:
 - Beach Lodge 2955
 - Subway
 - New Hill Farm Residents' Association
 - Southampton & District Samaritans
 - Charles Richardson Lettings
 - City of Southampton Society
 - Mineral & Fossil Society
 - Society of Friends (Quakers)
 - Northwood String Orchestra
 - BTC Rowing Club
 - Southampton Masonic Hall
 - Eastgate and Old Town Traders Association
 - Coco Rio Restaurant (petition)
 - Linden Guest House
 - Southampton & District Philatelic Society
 - Southampton University Masonic Lodge No 7022

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5. The main points raised through the consultation are:
 - The potential impact on businesses, visitors and employees
 - The legal and financial basis for the proposals
 - The cost to city centre residents
 - The potential impact on clubs, societies, faith groups and cultural activities
 - The potential for displacement into neighbouring residential areas
6. Given the range of proposals and interest groups affected it is intended that there will be further correspondence with the respondents to help explain the reasons for the proposals (see paragraph 11 below), and to see whether in some cases the proposals could be developed to address the concerns raised. As a number of respondents have highlighted concerns over whether the proposals would have been adequately communicated via Public Notices on street, it also intended to correspond with city centre residents associations and provide them with another opportunity to comment. This additional consultation will not affect the planned decision date of 21st October 2013.
7. We are currently reviewing the proposals including:
 - Possible evening, evening and weekend season tickets
 - Excluding Sunday from evening charging
 - Possible reduced cost charge for community and cultural groups which are not registered charities or registered voluntary organisations
 - Extended permit provision for the Crosshouse Water Users Group
8. The Decision Report will be presented to the Head of Transport, Highways and Parking for the representations to be considered and the matter to be determined.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Policy

9. The strategic level parking policy allows the establishment of the principle of charging for evening parking charges.
10. These proposals are compatible with the Local Transport Plan and the Local Development Plan these being the statutory planning documents for the City.
11. The proposals seek to ensure that the parking service continues to covers its cost of operation, maintains and improves the quality of service offered, encourages the use of sustainable transport modes and reduces carbon emissions.

Financial

12. The financial implications of the proposals have been estimated to bring an additional £300k into the Council each full year if approved.
13. Parking revenue is used to pay for parking services (both on and off street). Any on street surplus, if generated, is used in accordance with s.55 RTRA 1984 and goes towards highways and transport services.

Legal

14. The statutory powers to undertake the proposals are The Road Traffic regulation Act 1984.

Property

15. None

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OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

16. The option to not introducing these charges is a decision for the Head of Transport, Highways and Parking to be made on 21st October 2013, and will be considered in light of the policy objectives and of the proposal and outcomes of the consultation.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

17. None

Further Information Available From:

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