

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **3 December 2020**

Title: **Pay & Display Charges Review**

Portfolio Area: **Environment Services (Cllr Keith Baldry)**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: After the call in period for Executive

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Executive be RECOMMENDED to:**

- 1. Authorise the Head of Assets to publish notice of proposals for the South Hams District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2021 to consolidate with amendments the current off-street parking places order; the amendments to be made to be:**
  - 1.1 applying the Pay and Display charges in accordance with Appendix A;**
  - 1.2 making reference to Electric Charging Points;**
  - 1.3 incorporating the new reserved parking bays at Bigbury car park as shown in Appendix B;**
  - 1.4 providing for no parking between 10pm and 6am at the Memorial and Strete Gate car parks Slapton;**
  - 1.5 applying parking charges 24 hour a day at Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth during the High Season only (March to October);**
  - 1.6 applying parking charges from 8am until 10pm at Memorial, Strete Gate, Torcross Tank and Torcross Layby Car park, Slapton;**

- 1.7 increasing the Dittisham sailing club, Dittisham permit from £25.00 to £30.00;**
  - 1.8 amending the Dartmouth Market Square, Dartmouth no parking restriction from between 6am and 5pm to no parking between 6am and 9am Tuesday and Friday;**
  - 1.9 reserving 3 bays at Dartmouth Market Square as shown in Appendix C for Dartmouth Town Council permit holders only Monday – Friday between 7.30am and 5pm;**
  - 1.10 where the all day parking tariff is increased as a result of these recommendations, the permit price will be increased thereafter should it be introduced in line with the permit pricing formula; and**
  - 1.11 including Steamer Quay Road, Totnes as shown Appendix D within the Off Street Parking Places Order.**
- 2. Request the Head of Assets to prepare a report summarising the representations received in response to the notice of proposals for consideration by the Executive before making a decision whether to make the off-street parking places order as proposed or with modifications.**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks to implement a previous decision taken by the Council to raise parking charges once only in the current political term (until 2023) by less than predicted inflation. The decision had been delayed to assist towns and villages with the covid crisis.
- 1.2 At the meeting of full Council on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 (minute CM71/19), it was agreed car parking fees across the District would increase by approximately 4% in 2020-21, equating to £80,000 additional income per annum.
- 1.3 This report therefore requests Members consider the recommendation to amend Pay and Display charges in accordance with Appendix A.
- 1.4 It also requests that Members consider the recommendations to:
  - I. Update the Parking Order to allow for the future provision of Electric Charging Points and to allow enforcement
  - II. Incorporate the newly created reserved bays at Bigbury to the Parking Order
  - III. Apply parking charges 24 hours a day at Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth during the high season only
  - IV. Close Slapton Memorial and Strete Gate car park from 10pm until 6am daily

- V. Apply parking charges from 8am until 10pm at Memorial, Strete Gate, Torcross Tank and Torcross Layby car parks, Slapton.
- VI. Increase the Dittisham Sailing Permit to £30.00
- VII. Amend the no parking at Dartmouth Market Square to no parking Tuesday's and Friday's between 6am and 9am
- VIII. Create three reserved bays at Dartmouth Market Square for Dartmouth Town Council only Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 5pm
- IX. where the all day parking tariff is increased as a result of these recommendations, the permit price will be increase thereafter should it be introduced in line with the permit pricing formula
- X. Add Steamer Quay Road to the Off Street Parking Order to allow effective enforcement
- XI. Revoke all previous Parking Orders and consolidate into one new Off Street Parking Places Order (2021)

1.5 The recommendations will enable the Council to continue to manage off-street parking in an efficient and effective manner.

1.6 Without these updates to the Off Street Parking Places Order, enforcement will not be possible in respect of the additions and changes to the Parking Order.

## **2. Background**

2.1 This report seeks to implement a previous decision taken by the Council to raise parking charges once only in the current political term (until 2023). The increase amount of 4% is predicted to be less than the inflation increase between 2018 when it was last increased and 2023 when it could next be reviewed.

2.2 A decision had been taken to delay the implementation of the parking increase so that consultation on the proposals was not undertaken during a time when communities were battling with the first wave of the COVID crisis.

2.3 South Hams District Council has a 'Community Led Parking Charges' policy. This allows local Town and Parish Councils to work with the District Council in making recommendations about parking charges and enables parking charges to be designed to meet individual community needs.

2.4 Following the Council's resolution to increase the overall Pay & Display income across the District by 4%, Officers have been engaging with Town and Parish Councils to review parking charge regimes and address each community's needs.

2.5 The last parking tariff review was July 2018, where tariffs increased by 2% since which parking charges have not increased.

- 2.6 The proposed increase in parking charges was originally intended for implementation in 2020/21. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the Council facing unrepresented times and the review was therefore placed on hold. However, should the recommendations be resolved and public consultation receive limited objection, to secure the Council's financial position going forward, it is proposed any increase be implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- 2.7 Whilst conducting the review of pay & display charges it was recognised a number of other amendments were required to the parking order to ensure a robust parking regime is provided.

### **3. Outcomes/outputs**

#### **Pay & Display Charges**

- 3.1 Details of the requirements approved by each community are included in the appendix A that shows the schedule of revised pay & display charges. Totnes Town Council objected to any increase therefore the proposal included with Appendix A is Officers recommendations.
- 3.2 It is proposed in the high season (March to October) charges in Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth apply 24 hours a day.
- 3.3 It is proposed that parking charges will apply from 8am until 10pm in Memorial, Strete Gate, Torcross Tank and Torcross Layby car parks, Slapton and the blanket overnight charge of £3.00 is removed.

#### **Electric Charging Points**

- 3.4 As future installation of Electric Charging Points in off street car parks is anticipated, it is recommended Electric Charging Points be added to the Parking Order, to allow future enforcement be undertaken in response to any such abuse and to encourage responsible use.

#### **Reserved Bays, Bigbury**

- 3.5 Four reserved bays have recently been created at Bigbury car park. It is now necessary to add these bays to the Parking Order so effective enforcement may be undertaken as necessary. All bays have already been allocated and will generate £1500 income per bay for the Council.

#### **Memorial and Strete Gate car park, Slapton**

- 3.6 Following a number of issues with anti-social behaviour at these car parks, it is proposed the car park is closed from 10pm until 6am to prevent overnight parking.

### **Dittisham Sailing Permits**

- 3.7 The Council currently have a management agreement with Dittisham Parish Council, which enables the Council to carry out enforcement on their behalf. Dittisham Parish Council would like to increase the sailing club permit from £25.00 to £30.00

### **Dartmouth Market Square, Dartmouth**

- 3.8 Dartmouth Market Square is enforced on behalf of Dartmouth Town Council on Market days (Tuesdays and Fridays weekly). Previously the no parking restriction applied on these days between 6am until 5pm. The Town Council have now requested this enforcement period be reduced to be enforced from 6am until 9am to allow more flexibility to park.
- 3.9 Dartmouth Town Council have created three reserved bays on the Dartmouth Market Square for Town Council permit holders only Monday to Friday 7.30am to 5 pm.

### **Permit Prices**

- 3.10 Where the all day parking tariff is proposed to be increased should the recommendation be implemented the permit prices will be amended in line with the permit pricing formula
- 3.11 The permit price formula is based on 20% of the all day price x 5 days a week x 48 weeks per year.

### **Steamer Quay Road, Totnes**

- 3.12 Steamer Quay Road, Totnes is not adopted highway but is owned by South Hams District Council. To effectively manage enforcement along this road (double yellow lines) it will be added to the Off Street Parking Places Order.

### **Revoke of the Off Street Parking Places Order**

- 3.13 To assist effective management of all Parking Orders, all previous Parking Orders will be revoked and subsequently consolidated into one new Off Street Parking Places Order 2021. This will make interpretation easier and more robust, assist Adjudicators when considering appeals and provide a stronger platform for further changes.

## **4. Options available and consideration of risk**

- 4.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Town and Parish Councils.
- 4.2 A further 21 day public consultation will be undertaken following the meeting.
- 4.3 During the consultation period, customers wish to object to or comment on recommendations will have the opportunity to do so. It is anticipated this exercise will commence in January 2021.

Objections will be considered prior to implementation of any changes.

4.4 Appendix A shows the revised Pay and Display tariffs.

## 5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1 The proposed amendments to the Off Street Parking Places Order proceed in accordance with the recommendations.

5.2 Should the Recommendations be accepted, the following steps will occur:

- a. 21 day consultation commence (Jan 2021) to which customers will be alerted by notice in the local press, on the Council's website and in all affected car parks. This will allow customers to make comments on and/or objections to the proposals, should they wish to do so.
- b. If a significant number of representations were to be received, the matter would be referred to the Executive for further consideration,
- c. Otherwise, the detailed implementation of the recommendations should be delegated to the Head of Assets in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for car parking for implementation.

5.3 This proposal fits with the following priorities:

Council  
Communities  
Environment

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Council has power to provide and to regulate off-street car parks under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 set out the procedures to be followed before and after making any order regulating the use of car parks.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	The cost of implementing the changes will be met from the car parking budget.

		The difference between the income and expenditure on Off Street Car Parking is used to support costs associated with the operation and maintenance of parking services, its infrastructure and the maintenance of off street car parks. It is also used to support and provide other Council services such as street cleansing, toilets, parks and open spaces and other lawfully incurred identified expenditure.
Risk		<p>That if the Council does not amend and consolidate the existing off-street parking places orders it may have difficulties in taking enforcement action against drivers who park in a hazardous manner or otherwise misuse a car park while failure to implement order in a timely manner may mean that anticipated income levels will not be reached – to mitigate this risk, income levels will be closely monitored and, if necessary, further amendments will be made. Covid continues to have an impact on car park usage, which is effecting income generated within the car park.</p> <p>There is a risk that a significant number of objections to the proposals may be received, which would postpone any implementation, as the objections would have to be considered by the Executive ahead of any changes.</p>
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council Communities Environment
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	<p>There are no negative impacts.</p> <p>There may be small positive impacts with customers considering alternative means of transport or care sharing.</p>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		No implications.
Safeguarding		No implications.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No implications.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No implications.
Other implications		None at this stage.

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A: Pay & Display Charges

Appendix B: Map of Reserved Bay Bigbury

Appendix C: Map of Dartmouth Market Square, Dartmouth

Appendix D: Map of Steamer Quay Road, Totnes

**Background Papers:** None