

Report to: **Council**
Date: **8 December 2020**
Title: **Car Parking Charges**
Portfolio Area: **Car Parking (Cllr Terry Pearce)**
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately following this meeting.

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Recommendations:

That Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- 1. Amend the pay and display charges in the long stay West Devon off street car parks in accordance with Appendix A.**
- 2. Make consequential changes to the Council's Off Street Parking Places Order 2015.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 At the meeting of full Council on February 18th 2020 (CM 64), it was agreed work be commissioned firstly, to review the range of current tariffs in different car parks across the borough and secondly, to model the effect of increasing car parking fees by approximately 4% in 2020/21. This was undertaken on the basis car parking fees would not increase in 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report requests Members consider the recommendation to amend pay and display charges in accordance with Appendix A.
- 1.3 These changes are not proposed to increase income but instead, the amendments are intended, by an increase in cost of long stay parking, to increase the turnover of parking bays and as a result, contribute to the vibrancy of towns in the Borough.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the Council meeting on the 28th April (CM80) where the decision was taken to defer the outcome of the pay & display review to a future Council meeting for consideration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this report now requests that members consider the recommendation to amend the pay & display charges in accordance with Appendix A. This decision was made on the basis that car parking fees would not increase again in 2021/22. The last fee increase was July 2018.
- 2.2 A decision was taken to delay implementation of the parking increase until a time when communities were not battling with the first wave of the COVID crisis.
- 2.3 Further to the agreement for work to be commissioned to review the range of tariffs and to model the effect of increasing car parking fees by approximately 4%, Officers have been engaging with key stakeholders and ward members. The changes have been discussed and comments taken on board prior to arriving at the final proposal ahead of formal consultation.
- 2.4 The proposed increase in parking charges was originally intended for implementation in April 2020/21. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the Council and our communities facing unrepresented times and the review was therefore placed on hold. However, should the recommendations be resolved and public consultation receive limited objections, it is proposed any increase be implemented at the beginning of March 2021.
- 2.5 It is recognised the position reached in Appendix A does not represent all stakeholder requests. However, it does reflect the aims of our tariffs to meet community need and encourage increased town centre footfall and economic vibrancy.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 In order to manage car park use, it is recommended the cost of long stay parking is increased to encourage turnover of vehicles. It is anticipated this will, in turn, improve the vibrancy of towns and provide visitors and shoppers better access to parking.
- 3.2 Following the parking survey previously conducted, there was a view the single long stay tariff, implemented in Tavistock when car parks were underused, is now outdated. There is now a requirement to allow more flexibility in the use of car parks.
- 3.3 It is anticipated the recommended amendments to the pay and display charges will result in increased turnover in car parks and better availability of parking for visitors and shoppers.

3.4 The new charges will be monitored closely by officers.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 Consultation has been undertaken with town councils and key stakeholders.
- 4.2 A further 21 day public consultation will be undertaken following the meeting.
- 4.3 During the consultation period, customers who 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 A recent survey for parking in Tavistock highlighted a number of respondents wanted a sliding scale of charges to be reintroduced, due to the perception available parking in the town is scarce.
- 4.5 Appendix A shows the revised pay and display tariffs. It is anticipated the use of all day parking tariffs will reduce with customers opting to purchase the 4 hour tariff instead.

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. A 21 day consultation commences (Jan 2021) to which customers will be alerted by a notice in the local press and on the Council's website, together with notices 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 are received, the matter would be referred to the Hub Committee for further consideration,
 - c. Otherwise, the detailed implementation of 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	<p>The Council has power to provide and to regulate off-street parking 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.</p> <p>The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		<p>The cost of implementing the changes will be met from the car parking budget.</p> <p>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, parks and open spaces and other lawfully incurred identified expenditure.</p>
Risk		<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 Hub Committee ahead of any changes.</p> <p>The forecast financial position may not be achieved if the tariff does not drive usage as modelled.</p>
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council Communities Environment

Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		There are no negative impacts. There may be small positive impacts with customers considering alternative means of transport or care sharing.
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.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – proposed Pay and Display charges.

Background Papers:

Council Report of the 28th April 2020