

Cabinet report

Report of Head of HR, IT & Technical Services

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To: CABINET

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Review of car park fees and charges 2016/17

Recommendation

That cabinet reviews the current car park fees and charges and considers the options put forward by officers, along with any other options it wishes to consider, and decides what, if any, changes it wishes to make to the current car park fees and charges.

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide cabinet with information to consider so that it can determine the appropriate car park fees and charges from 1 April 2016.
2. Reviewing the car park fees and charges each year is in line with the Vale of White Horse District Council's car park pricing policy.

Strategic objectives

3. The provision of public car parks contributes to the achievement of our strategic objective "building the local economy" by giving access to shops, businesses and services within the towns and some villages. It also contributes towards our strategic objective of "effective management of resources" by providing car parking that is value for money and meets the needs of the users.

Background

4. The council's existing parking policy is:

B (1) – *removed in 2011 following introduction of free two hours parking*

B (2) Differential pricing may apply between areas in the Vale, including between car parks in the same town

B (3) Pricing may be used to regulate and influence usage to achieve a balance between sustainability and environmental objectives, and town centre vitality and viability; hence, short- term and long-term public parking should be differentially priced and located to encourage edge of town parking for commuters, thus freeing town centre parking for shoppers and visitors

B (4) Parking will be provided free of charge for disabled badge holders

B (5) Parking fees and charges will be reviewed annually.

5. In December 2011 the cabinet agreed to introduce a free period of two hours in the council's car parks. In December 2013 the cabinet agreed to reduce the cost of excess charges (parking fines) from £50 to £40 and to introduce a cashless payment system in car parks (pay by mobile phone). Last year the cabinet resolved to make no changes.
6. The current fees and charges and permits for the Vale Council are attached as appendix 1 to this report. As a comparison, fees and charges for other local car parks are attached as appendix 2 to this report. The cost of permits is shown in appendix 3 to this report.
7. In the next section, officers review the main elements of the car park fees and charges.

Review of car park fees and charges

8. Officers are required to review the car park fees and charges in accordance with the car park pricing policy B (5) as listed in paragraph 5 above.
9. As part of the review, officers first looked at the financial situation and the expected income and expenditure if no changes are made.

CAR PARK SERVICE OVER FIVE YEARS

10. Table 1 below estimates how the net cost of car parks will change over the five-year period 2014/15 to 2018/19 assuming no changes are made. It should be noted that we do not budget for depreciation or support costs – the table is purely a paper exercise, but these elements need to be included to give a full picture. Running costs and support costs are increased by two per cent per year.
11. In 2014/15, if considering just the income and the running costs, then the service showed a small surplus income of £32,206. However, taking into account other costs associated with parking like depreciation and corporate support costs, the table shows that there will be an estimated deficit on the service at the end of 2015/16 of £94,297 increasing to £142,630 in 2016/17 and the estimated cumulative deficit in 2018/19 will be £706,504.

Table 1 Car park service over five years

Car Parks net income (expenditure) updated October 2015						
	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Actual	Budget	Projected outturn (based on actuals to Sept 2015)	Base budget	Base budget	Base budget
Total Income	436,079	415,300	457,717	415,300	415,300	415,300
Less						
Running costs	403,873	371,922	371,922	378,443	389,800	401,490
Outturn actual / budgeted	32,206	43,378	85,795	36,857	25,500	13,810
Depreciation for use of asset	57,400	57,400	57,400	57,400	57,400	57,400
Support costs and CDC recharge	117,346	119,693	119,693	122,087	124,529	127,019
Total Costs	578,619	549,015	549,015	557,930	571,729	585,909
Actual / Projected net income (deficit)	(142,540)	(133,715)	(94,297)	(142,630)	(156,429)	(170,609)
Actual / Projected net income (deficit) cumulative	(142,540)		(236,837)	(379,467)	(535,895)	(706,504)

COST OF PERMITS

12. The table in appendix 3 lists the cost of permits currently available. Permits provided an income of just over £100,000 in 2014/15.

Options

13. The current financial position of the car park service does not warrant any further planned reductions in income. If required, officers have considered the following options to increase income.

A. INCREASE ALL FEES

14. An increase of ten pence is the smallest increase that is reasonable as fees are normally given to the nearest ten pence as this is the lowest denomination accepted by the machines. However, this increase would only have a small impact on the income and an increase of 20p would be more significant in reducing the deficits forecast over the next few years.

15. An increase of all fees would mean that the current differential that exists between the cost of short stay parking in the town centre and the cost of edge of town parking would remain the same.

16. Officers estimate that a 20p increase for all tariffs would increase income by up to £25,000 per year which would still mean that the car park service would be subsidised by other council income.

17. Officers estimate that an increase of all fees of at least 60p is required, plus an increase in permits of 20 percent for the service to breakeven.

B. INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF PERMITS

18. An increase in the cost of permits of 20 per cent would increase the income by £20,000 per year.
19. An increase in the price of permits would reduce the support to town centre businesses and to those businesses who rely on their staff paying for permits themselves.

C. CHARGE ON SUNDAYS

20. Currently only three car parks in Abingdon charge on a Sunday (those adjacent to the river Thames i.e. Rye Farm, Hales Meadow and Abbey Close). The current tariffs in all other car parks, including the free two hours, could be extended to cover all days of the week.
21. This would require some enforcement on a Sunday which would be at a cost but the increase in income is likely to outweigh this cost.
22. As a comparison, some town centre car parks to the north in Cherwell district do charge on a Sunday whereas car parks in South Oxfordshire do not. Traditionally people, particularly those attending religious services have strongly opposed any introduction of charges on a Sunday.

Financial Implications

23. In 2014/15, the Vale Council collected £227,752 from 'pay and display' income, £85,461 from parking permit income, £94,739 from excess charges (fines) and £28,128 from other miscellaneous income. The financial implication for each of the options is summarised in the table below:

Option	Title	Offer	Estimated increase in income per year
A	Increase all fees	Increase by 20 pence	£25,000
		Increase by 60 pence	£75,000
B	Increase price of permits	20 per cent increase	£20,000
C	Charge on Sundays	Similar fees to other days of the week	£11,250

24. Any financial implications of the decisions made as a result of this report will be included in the budget for 2016/17 and the medium term financial plan, which will be agreed by full council in February 2016.
25. The options A and C will have associated initial one off set up costs for changing signs and adapting software and is likely to be a one off cost of between £2,000 and £4,000.

Legal Implications

26. Changes to the price of permits or to the fees would not require any changes to the car parking order but would require the revised schedules to be published.
27. These changes that do not require a change to the body of the order, can be introduced by way of notice under section 35C of the Act, given and published in compliance with regulation 25 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Other implications

28. Officers have given due regard to the public sector equality duties of the Equality Act 2010. The proposed changes A and B will not directly or indirectly discriminate users who share a protected characteristic. Option C could disadvantage people attending religious services. Users who display a disabled badge will be unaffected by the changes, as they will continue to get free parking.
29. The Abingdon BID (business improvement district) plan, although still to be confirmed, includes some suggested improvements to parking that will have a financial impact and may require cabinet approval.
30. The car park service is included as part of the corporate services, 5 councils project (csp). If agreed the successful bidder will be looking to at least maintain the income to the council and reduce costs. In light of the car park service possibly changing in the next year and anticipated savings from csp, the cabinet may wish to wait and see the outcome of this project before agreeing any changes to the fees and charges.

Conclusion

31. The report has reviewed the current fees and charges in line with the Vale Council's car parking policy. The options that have been put forward are far from exhaustive although the corporate services project (csp), if agreed will have a financial impact on the service delivery that is yet to be quantified. The csp has generated a wide range of potential options which councillors will be asked to consider in future.

Background Papers

- None

Appendix 1 Vale Council - summary of car park fees and charges 2015

□ 1 NAME OF PARKING PLACE	□ 5 CHARGING/ NON-CHARGING PERIODS AND MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR WHICH VEHICLES MAY WAIT	□ 7 SCHEDULE OF CHARGES	
		□ 7a CHARGES FOR PARKING TICKETS Footnote 2 Footnote 3	□ 7b PERMITS (INC. VAT) Footnote 1 Footnote 3
ABINGDON Audlett Drive Charter Multi Storey West St Helen Street Abbey Close	Monday to Saturday, except Abbey Close Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.50 - up to 4 hours £3.40 - up to 6 hours £4.30 - over 6 hours £5.30	£5.80 per day £65 per month (5 day) £78 per month (6 or 7 day) £194 per quarter (5 day) £233 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £650 per annum (5 day) £779 per annum (6 or 7 day) Resident permit: £287 per annum
Charter Service Area & all external areas	Monday to Sunday 7 days - Permit Holders only Maximum stay 24 hours	N/A	£5.80 per day £65 per month (5 day) £78 per month (6 or 7 day) £194 per quarter (5 day) £233 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £650 per annum (5 day) £779 per annum (6 or 7 day)
Civic Cattlemarket	Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.50 - up to 4 hours £3.40 -up to 6 hours £4.30 - over 6 hours £5.30	No permits Resident permit for Cattlemarket only: £287 per annum

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Rye Farm including the lorry park Hales Meadow	Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.50 - up to 4 hours £3.10 - up to 6 hours £3.80 - over 6 hours £4.30 Lorry park only £7.40 for 24 hours or part thereof	£52 per month (5 day) £61 per month (6 or 7 day) £157 per quarter (5 day) £190 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £520 per annum (5 day) £622 per annum (6 or 7 day) Resident permit: £287 per annum or £144 six months Market trader permits, one day/week per year £82
WANTAGE Portway	Monday o Saturday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.30 - up to 4 hours £3.30 - up to 6 hours £4.30 - over 6 hours £5.30	Resident permit: £119 per annum School Term Permit (10 mins) £free
Limborough Road 1 and 2 Mill Street Undercroft	Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.30 - up to 4 hours £2.90 - up to 6 hours £3.00 - over 6 hours £3.50	£46 per month (6 or 7 day) £136 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £455 per annum (6 or 7 day) Resident permit: £71 per half year £143 per annum Market Traders Permit: 1 day a week £67 per annum
FARINGDON Southampton Street	Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.10	School Term Permit (10 mins) £free

□ 1	□ 5	□ 7 SCHEDULE OF CHARGES	
		□ 7a	□ 7b
NAME OF PARKING PLACE	CHARGING/ NON-CHARGING PERIODS AND MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR WHICH VEHICLES MAY WAIT	CHARGES FOR PARKING TICKETS Footnote 2 Footnote 3	PERMITS (INC. VAT) Footnote 1 Footnote 3
Gloucester Street	Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 10 hours	Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.00 - up to 4 hours £2.40 - up to 6 hours £2.60 - over 6 hours £2.80	£33 per month (6 or 7 day) £98 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £324 per annum (6 or 7 day) Resident permit: £119 per annum Market Traders Permit: One day per week £36 per annum School Term Permit (10 mins) £free
BOTLEY West Way Shoppers Car Park, (Church Way, Chapel Way, Elms Parade)	Monday to Sunday Maximum stay 3 hours	No charge	No charge
Service Area 1 & 2	Monday to Sunday 7 days – Permit Holders only Maximum stay 24 hours	N/A	No charge

Footnote 1: The Council will charge £12 when asked to issue replacement permits.

Footnote 2: No charges apply to motorcycles or vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge at all car parks.

Footnote 3: A valid ticket or parking permit will be required to be displayed during a charging period at those car parks where charges are payable, including those periods when a charge is not payable

All car parks have a 'No Return' period of two hours except the service areas in Botley and the Charter.

1	8 EXCESS CHARGES AND CONCESSIONARY EXCESS CHARGES (not subject to VAT)
NAME OF PARKING PLACE	EXPIRED TICKET; EXPIRED PERMIT; NO PERMIT DISPLAYED; NO VALID TICKET OR PERMIT DISPLAYED; PERMIT OR TICKET NOT VALID FOR PARKING PLACE; WRONG REGISTRATION NUMBER ON TICKET; EXCEEDED MAX 3 HOUR STAY; EXCEEDED MAX STAY; RETURNED WITHIN 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT; NO VALID DISABLED BADGE DISPLAYED; PARKED IN AN UNAUTHORISED AREA; NOT PARKED WITHIN A MARKED BAY; EXCEEDED WEIGHT RESTRICTION; NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING
All car parks	Excess Charge £80 payable within 28 days of the excess charge notice otherwise concessionary excess charge £40 if paid within 10 days.

Appendix 2

Comparison of pay and display car park charges, October 2015

Place	Average Charging periods	up to 1 hour	up to 2 hours	up to 3 hours	up to 4 hours	up to 5 hours	up to 6 hours	Up to 7 hours	up to 8 hours	up to 10 hours	up to 12 hours	ECN
Vale of White Horse DC (Portway, Wantage)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat		Up to 2 hrs no charge	1.30	3.30		4.30				5.30	Max £80
Vale of White Horse DC (Gloucester St, Faringdon)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat		Up to 2 hrs no charge	1.00	2.40		2.60				2.80	Max £80
Vale of White Horse DC (Cattlemarket, Abingdon)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat		Up to 2 hrs no charge	1.50	3.40		4.30				5.30	Max £80
South Oxfordshire District Council	9am to 5pm 8am to 6pm (in Henley on Saturdays)	Free or 50p	80p	1.50		1.80 to 2.10			1.60 to 3.30			Max £70
Train Station, Henley (discounts apply if pay by 'phone)	All day			1.00	1.50		2.50		4.50			Max £80
Dry Leas (Henley rugby club)	9am-5pm Mon to Friday										3.00	unknown
Mill Meadows (Henley Town Council) Mon-Fri		1.20	2.50		5.00						7.00	Max £70
Sat and Sun and BHs		1.50	3.00		6.00						8.00	
Wycombe DC (High Wycombe Easton Street)	7am – 6pm Mon - Sat	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.50				5.00	Max £80
Wycombe DC (High Wycombe) Baker St	7am - 7pm Mon - Sat		1.50				3.00				3.00	Max £80
Wycombe DC (Marlow) Dean St	7am - 7pm Mon – Sat (£1.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays)	60p (40p for up to 30 mins)	1.20	1.50	2.00		3.00				5.50	Max £80
Woking Borough Council (Victoria Way, Brewery Road & Heathside Crescent)	6am - 7pm Mon – Sat (also charges Sunday at reduced rate)	1.30	2.60	3.90	5.20	6.00	6.00	9.00			£10 up to 24 hrs	Max £80
Wargrave, School Lane (short stay)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat	40p	60p		2.00					4.00		Max £80
Wokingham town centre, Easthampstead Rd (long stay)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat	70p	1.20	2.00	2.00		3.00			4.00		Max £80

Place	Average Charging periods	up to 1 hour	up to 2 hours	up to 3 hours	up to 4 hours	up to 5 hours	up to 6 hours	Up to 7 hours	up to 8 hours	up to 10 hours	up to 12 hours	ECN
West Berkshire Council (Newbury central library)	8am - 6pm Mon - Sat (*£1 after 6pm)	1.00	2.20	3.40	4.50		6.50		8.50		12.00	Max £70
Aylesbury Vale DC (Upper Hundreds Town centre – short stay)	8am - 6.30pm Mon - Sat	1.00		2.00	3.50	5.00					8.00 up to 24 hrs	Max £70
Aylesbury Vale DC (Hampden House – inner long stay)	8am - 6.30pm Mon - Sat					2.50					4.00 up to 24 hrs (£1 overnight)	Max £70
Aylesbury Vale DC (Friarscroft – outer long stay)	8am - 6.30pm Mon - Sat										3.00 up to 24 hrs (1.00 overnight)	Max £70
Banbury (Market Pl, ultra short stay)	8am - 6pm Mon – Sun	£1.20 (80p up to 30 mins)										Max £80
West Oxfordshire DC (Marriotts Walk multi-storey, Witney)	8am - 6pm Mon -Sat	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Max £70
West Oxfordshire DC (Woodford Way)	8am - 6pm Mon -Sat	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Max £70
Cherwell DC (Claremont)	8am - 7pm Mon - Sun	60p	1.20 or Sunday £1 over 1hr	1.70								Max £80
Cherwell DC (Cattle Market)	8am - 7pm Mon - Sun	60p	1.20 or Sunday £1 over 1hr	1.70	2.20					2.50		Max £80
OCC (Redbridge Park & Ride)	5am - 6:30pm									2.00 or by RingGo 2.20		Max £100
OCC (Oxpens)	8am -8pm Sun -Fri 8am -8pm Sat	2.50 3.10	4.00 5.20	6.00 8.00	8.00 10.00		12.00 15.00		18.00 22.50	23.00 28.60 up to 24hr		Max £100
OCC (Worcester Street)	8am -8pm Sun -Fri 8am -8pm Sat	3.30 4.00	5.50 6.70	7.50 9.50	9.00 11.30		14.00 17.30		21.00 26.30	25.00 31.50		Max £100

Appendix 3 Vale Council - car park permit prices 2015/16

CAR PARK	DAY PERMIT	ANNUAL 6/7 day	QUARTERLY 6/7 day	MONTHLY 6/7 day	ANNUAL 5 day	QUARTERLY 5 day	MONTHLY 5 day	RESIDENTIAL 12 Month	RESIDENTIAL 6 Month
Abbey Close	£5.80	£779.00	£233.00	£78.00	£650.00	£194.00	£65.00	£287.00	£144.00
Audlett Drive	N/A	£779.00	£233.00	£78.00	£650.00	£194.00	£65.00	£287.00	£144.00
West St Helen Street	N/A	£779.00	£233.00	£78.00	£650.00	£194.00	£65.00	£287.00	£144.00
The Charter	N/A	£779.00	£233.00	£78.00	£650.00	£194.00	£65.00	£287.00	£144.00
		Annual AM/PM £390.00			Annual AM/PM £325.00				
Civic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cattle Market	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£287.00	£144.00
Hales Meadow	N/A	£622.00	£190.00	£61.00	£520.00	£157.00	£52.00	£287.00	£144.00
Rye Farm	N/A	£622.00	£190.00	£61.00	£520.00	£157.00	£52.00	£287.00	£144.00
Portway	£5.80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£119.00	N/A
Limborough Road	N/A	£455.00	£136.00	£46.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	£143.00	£72.00
Mill Street	N/A	£455.00	£136.00	£46.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	£143.00	£72.00

Southampton Street	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Gloucester Street	N/A		£324.00	£98.00	£33.00		N/A	N/A		£119.00	N/A

The HGV charges for the Rye Farm car park are:

£77 for one day/week per year

£7.30 for 24 hours

£636 for five days/week per year

£159 for one day/week per year