

Scrutiny Committee

Report of Head of Housing and Environment

Author: John Backley

Telephone: 07917 088317

Textphone: 18001 07917 088317

E-mail: john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk

Executive member responsible: Councillor Andrew Crawford

Tel: 01235 772134

E-mail: Andy.Crawford@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 23 November 2020

REPORT NO:

Consultation on car park fees and charges

Recommendation

(a) for the Scrutiny committee to consider each of the proposed changes to car park fees and charges as part of the formal consultation process and to feedback to Cabinet any comments it wishes to make.

Purpose of Report

1. For the Scrutiny committee to consider the consultation on car park fees and charges and to feedback to the cabinet any comments for consideration at the meeting in February 2021.

Strategic Objectives

2. Working in partnership.

Background

3. Cabinet considered a report on car park fees and charges for 2020/21 at the meeting on 7 August 2020 (report attached in Appendix A).
4. Note there was a subsequent correction to the report agreed by an Individual Cabinet Member Decision Cabinet that confirmed that the excess charge payable within 28 days is £80 reduced to £40 is paid within 10 days. Option I in the table in the original report to cabinet referenced a reduced fee of £50 if paid within 14 days which was incorrect.

5. Cabinet agreed to amend the parking fees in line with the proposals in the report which meant:
- (i) Increase all car parking fees for stays beyond two hours by 40p (option A);
 - (ii) Retain two hours free parking (thereby rejecting options B and C);
 - (iii) Increase the cost of parking permits by ten per cent (option D);
 - (iv) Formalise the parking for one coach and market traders in Hales Meadow car park, Abingdon. Remove the commercial vehicle parking in Rye Farm car park, Abingdon and use the area to create 'overflow' parking for smaller vehicles (option E);
 - (v) Phased removal of the discount on residential permits to bring them in line with parking permits, phased over four years, and commencing no later than 1 December 2020. Stop selling new residential permits from 1 October 2020 (option F);
 - (vi) Retain the current parking arrangements at the Civic car park in Abingdon (thereby rejecting option G);
 - (vii) Allow enforcement of electric vehicle charging points by amending the car park order (option H);
 - (viii) Retain the fee for early payment of Excess Charge Notices at £50 (option I); (N.B later corrected to £40)
 - (ix) Retain all other aspects of the fees and charges such as the charging periods, free parking for the display of a disabled badge and motorbikes, and free parking on Sundays (except Rye Farm, Hales Meadow and Abbey Meadow car parks in Abingdon) (option I);
6. The changes to the fees and permits (options A and D) are currently being arranged by a Notice of Variation in the car parks and will come into effect from 1 December 2020. New residential permits are also no longer available.
7. Cabinet agreed to make the other changes to Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car park and for electric vehicles (options E and H) and the phasing out of residential permits as in option F. These changes require a formal consultation and amendments to the car parking orders. It is these changes that the Scrutiny committee is asked to comment on.

Financial Implications

8. The cabinet report in Appendix A details the financial implications of each of the options.
9. The financial implications of options E, F, H are minimal. As the price of residents' permits are brought in line with existing permits (which are more expensive) there may be a slight increase in income over the next four years.

Legal Implications

10. The proposed changes E, F and H require the making of a new parking order. The council is required to publish the proposed order in the car park and in the local

press. The council must also consult with the county council (who must consent to the order) and other appropriate organisations including the Police. Cabinet must consider all representations received before making the order which it is due to do at the meeting in February 2021.

11. Timetable to implement new parking orders

Date	Action
29 October 2020	Start consultation, advertise notice of proposals in local newspapers
19 November 2020	Close consultation
18 December 2020	Draft report to senior management team
8 January 2021	Draft report considered at cabinet briefing
February 2021	Report to Vale cabinet to consider comments from consultation and agree new order
March 2021	New order comes into force (if agreed)

Risks

12. There is a legal duty to draft a new order and consult formally with statutory consultees like the Police and the Highways Agency. To capture as many other comments from the public, businesses, organisations including town and parish councils, and feed back to cabinet, we are carrying out a wide-ranging consultation. This reduces the risk that there is a legal challenge later on which could make the new order invalid. It also allows the Cabinet to make an informed decision.

Consultation and Communications

13. We have a dedicated online survey that will give people a chance to have their say on the proposals for the new parking orders; it will be open for the duration of the formal consultation (29 October to 19 November 2020) and a link is available from the councils website page: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/parking-roads-and-streets/parking/parking-policy-consultation-have-your-say/>

14. Appendix B has a copy of the survey for councillors to review.

15. The communications team are updating the webpages to explain why we are doing the consultation and providing a link to the survey. They will also help promote the survey via social media and send it to all district councillors and all town and parish councils.

Conclusion

16. Officers are carrying out a consultation on changes to the car parking order and the Scrutiny committee is asked to feedback on the questions asked by respondents so that officers can report to Cabinet along with the results of the consultation from others.

Background Papers

- The cabinet decision including authorisation to prepare and publish a draft order and report back to cabinet

Internal officer comments

Internal consultation	
Emma Creed (Finance)	Agreed 4 Nov 2020
Zoe (Consultation and Community Engagement)	Agreed 4 Nov 2020
Charlotte Westgate (Comms)	Agreed 3 Nov 2020
Suzanne Green	Agreed 3 Nov 2020
SMT	