

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 July 2018

RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR CALL IN

PART 1

Relating to the Following Decision:

Decision: To implement increases to pay and display charges to encourage higher turnover of short stay bays

Decision Date: 14 June 2018

Decision of: Cllr Dogan – Cabinet Member for Environment

Key Decision No: KD4697

1. Introduction

Parking charges are designed to contribute to curbing unnecessary car use where there is adequate public transport or where walking or cycling are realistic alternatives, for example in town centres. The Charges reflect the value of kerb-space, encouraging all, but short-term parking to take place in nearby off-street car parks where available.

Parking Services has carried out a review of the current space usage to see whether the current parking tariffs are set at an appropriate level.

We wish to implement the new charges from August for the reasons given in the report.

2. Reasons for Call In

The reason why the decision was called in is as follows: -

- *The decision to increase on-street parking charges negatively affects those on low and fixed incomes*
- *The decision to increase on-street parking charges negatively affects resident who have disabilities but do not qualify for a blue badge who need to park closer to shops and services*
- *This decision does not take into account any loss of car parking spaces in the borough that is likely to take place in the near future*
- *There has been a lack of consultation with local businesses on the issue*
- *There is no mention on how the cost of parking feeds into our town centre agenda and recent master plans*

3. Response to Reasons for Call In

The decision to increase on-street parking charges negatively affects those on low and fixed incomes

The charge increases are proportionate to deliver the outcome we want, that it will improve a better turnover of spaces. We have to encourage a better turnover of spaces which will continue to attract shoppers to our local businesses and deter long stayers.

The decision to increase on-street parking charges negatively affects resident who have disabilities but do not qualify for a blue badge who need to park closer to shops and services

You are entitled to a blue badge if you are unable to walk further than 50 metres (a score of 8 points or more under the 'moving around activity on the mobility component). As there are very few paying parking bays further than 50m from our shopping areas, we believe we are not affecting anyone not entitled to a blue badge permit.

This decision does not take into account any loss of car parking spaces in the borough that is likely to take place in the near future

Any further loss of parking spaces will mean that the turnover of spaces will become even more necessary to control. As such, under the Equalities Impact Assessment, we have already committed to review the parking charges in the next two years to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

There has been a lack of consultation with local businesses on the issue

The survey work that was carried out earlier this month showed that in paid for parking bays, we already have a need to further control the turnover of spaces. As such, a consultation with local businesses that we are helping with the encouragement of more use of bays, was not necessary.

There is no mention on how the cost of parking feeds into our town centre agenda and recent master plans

The cost of parking is not linked to the town centre plans sufficed to say that we use parking charges to encourage short stay instead of long stay parking patterns. This contributes to more vibrant shopping areas.