

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**13 February 2018**

**Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision**

**CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES – OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Summary**

**This report considers objections and comments received during the statutory consultation period relating to the proposed off-street parking charges.**

**Introduction**

- 1.1.1 At the November 2018 meeting of this Board, Members considered and approved a number of proposals to alter the parking charges. To enable the charges to be introduced a new off-street Traffic Regulation Order is required.
- 1.1.2 The statutory processes for making a Traffic Regulation Order require that the Council undertake a formal consultation on the proposed changes. The consultation was carried out between 5<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**1.2 Consultation**

- 1.2.1 As part of the consultation process, the following actions were progressed, inviting comments or objection;
- Notices were placed in each car park by each pay and display machine
  - Adverts were placed in the local media
  - Letters were send to every Parish Council and to each Member of this Council
  - Letters were sent to all statutory consultees (Police, Fire, Bus operators etc.)

1.2.2 During the consultation period three responses were received.

- One from Platt Parish Council, commenting that increasing short-stay parking charges in the West Malling and Borough Green car parks would be to the disadvantage of their residents who had to travel to either town/village as the nearest shopping venue. The Parish Council also commented that it understood the need to balance the parking management of the car park and that consideration should be given to increasing parking charges as a deterrent to rail commuter parking
- One from a resident of West Malling, objecting to the increase and suggesting that the charges be reduced, and that a “1 hour free parking” period be introduced. The objector commented that he supported the extension of stay to allow parking for up to 4 hours.
- One from a person who runs a business in West Malling, indicating that increased charges would cause difficulties.

The redacted responses are attached at **Annex 1**.

1.2.3 After the consultation period ended, further correspondence was received from West Malling Parish Council. For completeness this also is included in **Annex 1**.

This correspondence included specific comments on the following areas;

- Opposed to the 10 pence an hour increase.
- Supports the introduction of the 4 hour stay for the short stay car park
- Opposed to the increase on the season tickets to the Ryarsh Lane car park

### **1.3 Consideration of objections**

1.3.1 The Board considered the reasons and principles for the introduction of new charges at its November meeting, including the amendment of the charges in both Borough Green and West Malling.

1.3.2 The introduction and management of parking charges have proven effective in maintaining accessible short-stay parking in both the Borough Green and West Malling car parks, which in turn assists in improving the availability of spaces for short-stay shopping visits. The proposed increases in parking charges were considered to be realistic, took into account the nature of each town/village, and it was noted that parking charges had not been increased the previous year.

1.3.3 Taking the above into account, it is proposed that no changes are made to the proposed charges, and Members note and set aside the objections.

## 1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 The estimated additional income for car parking is modelled on predicted future parking patterns and demand matching what currently takes place. It does not reflect any potential adverse customer reaction or the possibility of increased take up of the dual ticketing arrangement in Angel and Botany car parks.

## 1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

## 1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Asset Management
- 1.6.2 Community
- 1.6.3 Customer Contact

## 1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 It is recommended to Cabinet that it **APPROVE** the following actions to be taken prior to the parking charges coming into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018;
- 1) the objections to the increase in off-street parking charges, as detailed in the report be set aside.
  - 2) the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order be made to facilitate the variation of the off-street parking charges.

Background papers:

Annex 1 – Redacted consultation responses

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