

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

812 March 2018

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

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision Recommendation to Borough Cabinet – Key Decision

1 CHANGES TO ON-STREET PARKING FEES AND CHARGES

Summary

This report updates Members on the outcome of the recent formal consultation on changes to the Traffic Regulation Order with regard to on-street parking fees and charges and makes recommendations to the Borough Council's Cabinet.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 At the November 2019 meeting of the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board Members considered and approved a number of proposals to alter parking fees and charges.
- 1.1.2 To enable the charges to be introduced a new on-street Traffic Regulation Order amendment is required.
- 1.1.3 The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to a year's delay in the progression of this tariff change which is normally undertaken on a two yearly cycle.
- 1.1.4 The proposed changes are detailed in Annex 1.
- 1.1.5 The statutory processes for making a Traffic Regulation Order requires that the Borough Council undertakes a formal consultation on the proposed changes. The consultation was carried out between 27th November and 21st December 2020.

1.2 Changes to fees and charges – Formal Consultation

- 1.2.1 As part of the consultation process, the following actions were progressed, inviting comments or objection;
 - Notices were placed in each on-street Pay & Display area by each pay and display machine
 - Adverts were placed in the local media
 - Letters were send to each Member of the Borough Council

- Letters were sent to all statutory consultees (Police, Fire, Bus operators etc.)

1.2.2 Consultation information was also placed on the Borough Council's website .

1.3 Consultation responses

1.3.1 Consultations on changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders that govern parking tariffs normally generate a relatively low level of response. However, on this occasion we have received 238 separate online responses.

1.3.2 Of those 238 responses, 6 were duplicates, where responders have commented twice. Their comments have been combined in to one response, so we have received 232 discrete responses.

1.3.3 The proposals covered two elements;

- increases to the on-street Pay & Display parking charges (T1.1, T2 & T3 in Annex 1) collected through ticket machines and the phone payment system, and
- variations to the on-street parking permit charges (T7.1, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 & 7.6 in Annex 1).

1.3.4 There were no comments received relating to the variation of the on-street Pay & Display charges. All the comments received related to the variation of permit charges.

1.3.5 Of those permit charge responses;

- 77 supported the proposal
- 135 objected to the proposal

However, the responses bear further analysis. A significant number of the "objection" responses were actually requests for additional Council services or for new parking permit schemes.

Analysis of who responded

Of those 162 responses from residents that are currently in a permit parking scheme

- 61 in favour of the proposal (38%)
- 101 not in favour (62%)

Of those 56 responses that are not currently in a permit parking scheme

19 in favour (34%)

37 not in favour (66%)

1.4 Next Steps – Implementation

- 1.4.1 Should the Board agree to set aside the objections, the proposed changes would be implemented at the start of April 2021.

1.5 Next review

- 1.5.1 The Council normally reviews its charges every two years, but there has been an additional year's delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will look to return to the normal programme and review charges again in 2022.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 The proposals have followed and exceeded the requirements of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 It is RECOMMENDED to Borough Cabinet that-
- 1.8.2 In relation to the on-street Pay & Display charges, it be noted that there were no objections and agree to make the Traffic Regulation Order to facilitate the change to charges in line with the decision made by the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board in November 2019.
- 1.8.3 In relation to the on-street permit charges, it be noted that there were a significant number of responses, but to set aside the objections and make the Traffic Regulation Order to facilitate the change to charges, in line with the decision made by the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board in November 2019.

Background papers:

Annex 1 – TRO Advertisement

Annex 2 – Points raised during consultation

Annex 3 – Redacted consultation responses

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Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The proposals echo primary legislation on the public highway and are intended to improve access.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The proposals include changes to disabled parking facilities, which should improve parking issues for those with mobility-related issues.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.