

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET

03 October 2023

### Supplementary Report of the Director of Street Scene, Environment & Technical Services, the Director Finance & Transformation, and the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Infrastructure

#### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet-Key Decision

## 1 CAR PARKING PROPOSALS

### Summary

This report highlights a number of proposed changes to the Council's car parking service that were considered by Members of the Communities Environment Scrutiny Select Committee (CESSC) on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023. Cabinet is asked to consider the comments made by the Committee and agree the proposals to be taken forward to formal public consultation. The outcome of the consultations will be reported back to future meetings of Cabinet.

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 At the recent meeting of the CESSC Members were invited to consider a number of proposed changes to the car parking service and make recommendations to this meeting of Cabinet. The proposals have the intention to balance the management of the car parks, meet the needs of all users, optimise the availability of parking, maximise income subject to market conditions and provide consistency across the assets in a fair commercial and efficient manner.

### 1.2 Proposals

1.2.1 The proposals are shown below in summary with full details included in the aforementioned CESSC papers-

- extension of charges to evenings up to 8pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays;
- removal of the street parking machines in Avebury Avenue Tonbridge (west of Holford road) and the area be changed to parking permit only to add capacity to the D1 parking area and that the issue of Business On-Street Parking Permits in the D1 area be revised to a maximum of 3 per business to allow more residential parking opportunities;

- introduce parking charges to Martin Square Larkfield and Bailey Bridge car parks in Aylesford;
- introduce charges to on street parking bays in West Malling High Street and Swan Street;
- introduce parking charges to the existing Gateway visitor parking bays in Tonbridge Castle grounds; and
- bring forward forthcoming capital plan reviews to improve Bailey Bridge East car park, the introduction of ANPR systems at selected car parks, extension of Upper Castle field and a general scheme to enable all the proposals to be implemented.

The proposed charges for the proposals summarised above are attached at **Annex 1**.

### **1.3 Recommendations from CESSC**

Attached at Annex 2 is the Referral sheet from the CESSC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September which includes the recommendations made by to Cabinet by the Committee.

### **1.4 Public Consultation**

- 1.4.1 The timing of the consultation process are dependent on the specific proposals, the need for design work and whether proposals relate to on-street or off-street car parking charges.
- 1.4.2 For the off-street charges proposed for Aylesford, Martin Square and Castle Grounds car parks, together with the extension of charges to weekends, bank holidays and evenings the consultation will hopefully take place later this calendar year.
- 1.4.3 For the on-street charges proposed for West Malling High Street, Swan Street and Avebury Avenue Tonbridge, the consultations will take place either later this calendar or early the New Year, alongside consultation on the existing car parking charges. The existing car parking charges will be reported to the next meeting of the CESSC.

### **1.5 Legal Implications**

- 1.5.1 The powers allowing the Borough Council to carry out parking management activity are contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, supplemented by formal agreement with Kent County Council as the Local Highway Authority, in respect of its powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular, section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 Act imposes a general duty on local authorities exercising functions under the Act to secure the expeditious,

convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of safe and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

- 1.5.2 Changes to parking charges should be made via an Amendment Order to the Council's on and off-street parking Traffic Regulation Orders, using the procedures set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

## **1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.6.1 The financial implications of the suggested proposals were included in the relevant sub-sections of the report to the CESSC on 21<sup>st</sup> September. It is essential that given the context of the MTFs that the Council seeks to ensure that the assets are managed in the most economically advantageous way, costs are recovered and income is optimised.
- 1.6.2 The estimated additional income is modelled on predicted future parking patterns and demand in line with current usage. There is always an immediate perception that new charges will impact negatively on usage levels and impact local businesses. This has not been the experience at Haysden Country Park and West Malling when the Council previously introduced new charges.

## **1.7 Risk Assessment**

- 1.7.1 There is a risk that the Councils aim of providing a balanced approach to the management of its car parks detailed at sub section 1.1.1 will not be met if the above proposals are not implemented.

## **1.8 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act.
- 1.8.2 Any members of the public with mobility issues that meet the established criteria are able to apply to Kent County Council for disabled parking Blue Badges that would exempt them from parking time restrictions and charges.
- 1.8.3 In relation to more senior members of the community who may be less able to access online services. The proposals retain coin payments, though over time, the demographics of those less able to access online services will change.

## **1.9 Policy Considerations**

- 1.9.1 Asset Management, Communications, Customer Contact

## **1.10 Recommendations**

1.10.1 Cabinet is invited to consider the recommendations made by Members of the CESSC at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and agree the list of proposals to be taken forward for formal public consultation.

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Background papers:

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22/9/23 CESSC “Car Parking Proposals”

22/9/23 CESSC Minutes