

## **CAR PARK FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20**

<b>Head of Service/Contact:</b>	Joy Stevens, Head of Customer Services & Business Supt.
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	N/A
<b>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</b>	<b>Annex 1</b> - Car Park Permit changes
<b>Other available papers (not attached):</b>	None stated

### **Report summary**

This report seeks the agreement of the Committee for changes to car parking fees and charges during 2019/20 as discussed by the cross party parking working group.

### **Recommendation (s)**

That the Committee:-

- (1) **Agrees the changes to business and residential permit fees as identified by the cross party Parking Working Group in Annex 1.**
- (2) **Agrees that car park tariffs are not increased in 2019/20.**

## **1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 In considering parking fees and charges in this report the Committee will need to consider and balance the effective management of parking spaces and the economic impact on the Borough, including ensuring that everyone that needs a car parking space is able to access one.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy suggests that the expected increase in yield on car park fees was 3%, therefore an additional £116k would be required from car parking fees in 2019/20. If lower charges are agreed, the Council will be required to identify further income or cost savings elsewhere to enable the Council to meet its overall budget.

# Environment and Safe Communities Committee 23 October 2018

- 2.2 Throughout the past year major works have continued in the town centre including works in South Street and at the Playhouse junction which at times have caused significant traffic build up in the town centre. Coupled with other recent utility works in Hook Road, Ashley Road and East Street travel times to and from Epsom have increased.
- 2.3 Whilst car parks such as Town Hall, Hope Lodge and Depot Road have performed well in 2017/18, 52% of the total car parking revenue from tariffs was generated by the Ashley Centre. In this regard any proposals to significantly increase revenue from car park tariffs would invariably impact on charges within the Ashley Centre.
- 2.4 In recent years the Medium Term Financial Strategy has sought to increase car park revenue from fees by 3% per year.
- 2.5 The changes proposed for 2019/20 are outlined in **Annex 1** and have been discussed by the cross party car parking working group. These changes identify a potential increase of £12,100 from car park permit increases alone.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the remaining fees and charges are frozen at their current levels for 2019/20.

## 3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Car Parking Working Group discussed the following proposals:
  - 3.1.1 That car park tariff prices are not increased in 2019/20 due to the impact the current major works within Epsom are having on visitor numbers into the town centre.
  - 3.1.2 That car parking tariffs are reviewed in 2019/20.
  - 3.1.3 That car park permit prices are approved as detailed in **Annex 1**.

## 4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 By not increasing car park tariffs in 2019/20 there will be an estimated shortfall in revenue generated within the car parks in comparison with that forecasted in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 Increasing car park tariffs in 2019/20 would not guarantee that revenue would continue to increase if visitor numbers continue to fall.

Environment and Safe Communities  
Committee  
23 October 2018

4.3 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The budget targets for 2019/20 car parking income anticipates additional income from car parking totalling £116,000. The current proposed changes would generate an additional £12,000 of income. This results in a shortfall of £104,000 against the target determined by Strategy and Resources. Additional income/savings will need to be identified either from car parks or elsewhere within the Council's budget to address this shortfall.

**5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality) and Monitoring Officer's comments:**

5.1 None for the purposes of this report

**6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications**

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

**7 Partnerships**

7.1 It is proposed that in future years the car parking working group will consult with representatives of the Epsom Town Centre BID, if the BID board is established and the BID is formerly constituted.

**8 Risk Assessment**

8.1 There is a risk that further increases in car park tariffs, coupled with ongoing Highway works and the change in retail offering, may see visitor numbers to Epsom & Ewell and in particular the Ashley Centre continue to fall.

**9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

9.1 That car park permit prices are increased in line with the recommendations in **Annex 1**.

**Ward(s) affected:** (All Wards);