

Environment and Safe Communities Committee
(25 January 2022)

CAR PARK FEES AND CHARGES 22/23

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|---|--|
| Head of Service: | Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community |
| Wards affected: | (All Wards); |
| Urgent Decision?(yes/no) | No |
| If yes, reason urgent decision required: | |
| Appendices (attached): | Appendix 1 Car park fee changes 2022/23 Appendix 2 Car park permits 2022/23 |

Summary

This report seeks the agreement of the Committee for off street parking and parking permit charges for 2022/23.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree to the car park charges proposed in Annex 1**
- (2) Agree to the car park permit prices proposed in Annex 2**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFP) requires an increase in car park income of 6% every two years and the following proposal is recommended as the preferred method of achieving this.

2 Background

- 2.1 There was no increase in car parking fees in 2021/22. In line with the MTFP the expectation is therefore that an increase of 6%, equivalent to £116,000 per year in 2022/23, with an additional £11,000 expected from an uplift in permit income.
- 2.2 Car Park usage has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with a reduction in annual permit use and a decrease in car park visitor numbers, particularly during times when Covid restrictions are in place.

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- 2.3 With the cost of living increasing and visitor numbers to some car parks impacted, there is a need to be mindful of the potential impact of increasing car park charges across the board.
- 2.4 The impact of the pandemic on the car parks to the rear of the Town Hall and Hope Lodge has been felt less than in other car parks. As they are convenient, central to the town and aimed at short stay visits they have continued to remain popular.
- 2.5

Comparison of visitor numbers in Borough Council car parks in the first 8 months of 2021/22 with 2019/20.

| Car Park | 2019 visitors (Apr-Nov) | 2021 visitors (Apr-Nov) | % equivalent |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ashley Centre | 503,471 | 384,691 | 76.4% |
| Hook Road | 84,034 | 45,134 | 53.7% |
| Depot Road | 129,976 | 104,228 | 80.2% |
| Upper High Street | 63,813 | 45,620 | 71.5% |
| Town Hall | 136,819 | 119,846 | 87.6% |
| Hope Lodge | 68,402 | 61,537 | 90.0% |
| Bourne Hall | 62,371 | 41,146 | 66.0% |
| Dorset House | 51,146 | 39,363 | 77.0% |
| Ewell High Street | 32,038 | 24,456 | 76.3% |

3 Proposal

- 3.1 Given that some car parks have continued to be well used, it is proposed that the car park increases are concentrated on those Epsom car parks that are still being well used. The proposed increases therefore apply only to the Town Hall and Hope Lodge Car Parks and range between a 20% and 50% uplift.
- 3.2 The charges for other car parks in Epsom, which are primarily used for longer retail visits and by local businesses, as well as the car parks in Ewell, will remain the unchanged. Details of the proposed changes to car parking charges are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Another report on this agenda seeks approval from the Committee to introduce charges at Stoneleigh Parade car park, following a public consultation. The proposed charges are included in Appendix 1.

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- 3.4 It is proposed that Car Park permit prices are increased by 3% for 2022/23. The proposed changes to charges for car parking permits is set out in Appendix 2. The proposed approach has been agreed by the Council's Member Car Park Working Group

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Impact Assessment

4.1.1 None arising from this report.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 None arising from this report.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 None arising from this report.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 None arising from this report.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 None arising from this report.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The changes proposed are intended to generate additional revenue in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy estimate.
- 5.2 The proposed changes to Town Hall and Hope Lodge car parks detailed in Appendix 1 are anticipated to generate an additional £116,297, whilst maintaining tariffs across other car parks at their existing levels. This delivers a small saving on the cost of changing tariff notices in those car parks.
- 5.3 The new fees proposed for Stoneleigh Parade carpark, as detailed in Appendix 1 and subject to Committee approval of another report on the same agenda, are anticipated to generate an additional £3,752.
- 5.4 The proposed changes to car park permits and new charges for Stoneleigh Parade permits, detailed in appendix 2, are anticipated to generate an additional £14,465.

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- 5.5 Section 151 Officer's comments: The budget targets for 2022/23 car parking income anticipates additional income from car parking totalling £127,000. The current proposed changes would generate an additional £134,514 of income. Any additional income generated from services, will make an important contribution to mitigating the Council's projected future budget deficit.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Off street parking is regulated by Orders made under Part IV of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. There is a statutory process to be followed if an order is to be made or amended.
- 6.2 Where an order makes provision as to the charges to be paid in connection with the use of an off-street parking place, and there is a proposal only to vary the charges to be paid, it is not necessary to make a full new order; a shorter process is available under section 35C of the 1984 Act.
- 6.3 A notice of variation of parking charges must be published in a local newspaper at least 21 days before the new charges are to come into force. Notice must also be displayed in the parking place. There is no provision for representations to be made or considered.
- 6.4 **Legal Officer's comments:** none arising from the content of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
Effective Council
Opportunity and prosperity
- 7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** There are unlikely to be any negative impacts from these recommendations. The increase in charges in the convenient short stay car parks may mean that visitors consider other means of transport or make fewer short stay visits.
- 7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
None arising from this report.
- 7.5 **Partnerships:** N/A

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8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

None

Other papers:

None