

HOOK ROAD CAR PARK EQUIPMENT FUNDING

Head of Service: Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Report Author Richard Chevalier
Wards affected: Town Ward;
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Appendices (attached):

Summary

This report seeks funding of up to £25k to install pay and display equipment at Hook Road Car Park as an interim measure between the end of life of the current equipment and the start of any proposed developmental works at Hook Road.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve funding of up to £25,000, as set-out in section 4, to enable the Council to install pay & display equipment into Hook Road Car Park or
- (2) Remit this report for consideration at the next scheduled meeting of Environment Committee should Recommendation 1 not be approved.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Following a report discussed in July 2024 the Environment Committee requested that pay and display equipment, in addition to RingGo, be installed in Hook Road Car Park as an interim measure between the end of life of the existing equipment and any future development works at the site.

2 Background

- 2.1 The current barrier-controlled equipment and associated ICT connections at Hook Road are due to reach end of life at the end of 2024.
- 2.2 Whilst the initial hope was to nurse the existing equipment for an extended time, using parts and devices soon to be removed from the Ashley Centre Car Park, this is no longer likely and an interim replacement must be found.

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- 2.3 A separate paper from the Property & Estates Team has been viewed by the Committee regarding proposed developmental works which could start as soon as September 2025.
- 2.4 The Environment Committee considered three options in their meeting of 16 July 2024. They rejected both a replacement barrier system for financial reasons and also a RingGo only option, that would have been substantially fully funded by RingGo. Instead, the Committee supported a pay & display option, at an estimated cost of £15,000-£25,000, to work in conjunction with RingGo.
- 2.5 Final costings will be dependent on the number of pay & display machines installed.

Whilst this paper progresses the Council will continue to explore any alternative options that may keep the existing equipment running, or that may provide a more cost effective solution.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was provided with the Environment Committee report. Whilst no protected characteristics were directly impacted the use of a phone/app based system only may more proportionately impact older users.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 The Design Out Crime Officer at Surrey Police has noted a concern that the removal of barriers could lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour in the evenings as vehicles could enter the car park unhindered i.e. no barrier access required. (see 3.5.1 below).

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 N/A

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 N/A

3.5 Other

3.5.1 Any option that removes the barriers needs to consider some speed restriction measures being put in place, particularly at the car park exit.

4 Financial Implications

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- 4.1 The installation of pay and display equipment could cost between £15,000 and £25,000 depending on the number of machines to be installed.
- 4.2 If Recommendation 1 is not approved then the Environment Committee will have to consider options for funding this project.
- 4.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Finance comments included in body of report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
 - Effective Council
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No impact expected.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** See 3.2
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** The existing fees at Hook Road Car Park enable us to provide a parking alternative for the Rainbow Leisure Centre.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Environment Committee Report July 2024

Other papers:

- Hook Road Environmental Survey – Environment Committee July 2024