

HOOK ROAD CAR PARK INTERIM OPTIONS FOLLOW UP PAPER

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 to identify funding for a pay and display interim option at Hook Road Car Park or for the Committee to opt for a RingGo solution only.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Proceed with Option 1, 2 or 3 as identified in Section 4 of this report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The current equipment is due to reach end of life at the end of this calendar year and so an alternative solution needs to be identified and funded out of the current budgets.

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 possible and an interim replacement must be found.
- 2.3 In July 2024 this Committee opted to pursue an interim solution involving the installation of pay and display machines to work in tandem with a cashless parking option provided by RingGo.

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- 2.4 In September 2024 Strategy and Resources Committee voted against the release of additional funds for this solution and the matter was returned to Environment Committee to reconsider its options or identify funding for the chosen solution.
- 2.5 All options will include the introduction of some speed reduction measures and costs associated with any required lines, signage or Comms expected to be in the region of £3k. This will come from existing revenue budgets.

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 in July 2024. 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.

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 (see 2.5).

4 Options

Option 1

4.1 To introduce a RingGo only solution within Hook Road Car Park.

4.1.1 This option proposes that a cashless only solution will be available at Hook Road Car Park.

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4.1.2 This option will require a nominal amount of additional funding.

Option 2

4.2 To install 2 pay and display machines within Hook Road Car Park at an estimated cost of £8-10k

4.2.1 This option proposes the installation of a pay and display device, taking cash and card payment, on Level 1 and either Level 2 or 3 of the main lobby of Hook Road Car Park

4.2.2 The funding for this option would need to be found from existing revenue budgets.

Option 3

4.3 To install up to 4 pay and display machines within Hook Road Car Park at an estimated cost of £16-20k.

4.3.1 This option proposes the installation of a pay and display device, taking cash and card payment, on Level 1, 2 and 3 of the main lobby of Hook Road Car Park with a further device in the rear stairwell leading to the Rainbow Leisure Centre.

4.3.2 The funding for this option would need to be found from existing revenue budgets.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 In 2023/24 the net income for the Hook Road cost centre was £60,000 which represented an adverse variance of £77,000 against a budgeted net income of £137,000. This adverse position is further increased when the central costs of the car parking service are apportioned across the car parks, with the allocated amount for Hook Road being £65,000.

5.2 The council is currently forecasting a deficit of £77,000 as at Q1 and officers are continually seeking efficiencies to mitigate this. As Hook Road car park has been identified for development in the emerging Local Plan, any investment should be considered against the remaining operational life of the car park.

5.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None arising from the contents of this report but legal will need to review any proposed new contracts.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

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7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Effective Council
- 7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None
- 7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** See 3.2.1
- 7.5 **Partnerships:** The existing fees at Hook Road Car Park enable us to provide a parking alternative for the Rainbow Leisure Centre.

8 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Hook Road Car Park Equipment Funding (S&R) – September 2024
- Car Park Options Hook Road (Environment) – July 2024

Other papers: