

CABINET

30 MAY 2007

OFF-STREET CAR PARK CHARGES 2007/08 FURTHER AMENDMENTS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 1410 - Review of Car Park Charges – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents further amendments to off-street car parking charges for 2007/08 following the Cabinet Report in February 2007. These minor amendments are needed to correct some anomalies which have arisen as a result of the comprehensive changes introduced in April 2007. The report also proposes changes to car parking charges/times at the Park and Ride sites for Saturday users, and in relation to the proposed Outdoor Sports Centre at Bar End. It also suggests a trial introduction of a 'pay by phone' system for off-street car parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the suggested minor amendments to off-street car parking charges are approved and the Off-street Parking Places Orders be amended accordingly, by giving public notice of the variation in charges.
2. That the suggested changes to park and ride parking charges and times in relation to Saturday parking and Outdoor Sports Centre users be agreed, and the Off-street Parking Places Orders amended accordingly.
3. That agreement be given to a trial of a 'pay by phone' system for off-street car parks, and that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director (Operations) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport to a) amend the Off-Street Parking Places Orders to provide for such payment and b) agree future adoption of the system.

CABINET30 May 2007OFF-STREET CAR PARK CHARGES 2007/08 FURTHER AMENDMENTSREPORT OF THE HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTUREDETAIL:1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents further amendments to off-street car parking charges for 2007/08 following the Cabinet Report in February 2007. These minor amendments are needed to correct some anomalies which have arisen as a result of the comprehensive changes introduced in April 2007. The report also proposes changes to car parking charges/times at the Park and Ride sites for Saturday users and in relation to the proposed Outdoor Sports Centre at Bar End and suggests a trial introduction of a 'pay by phone' system for off-street car parks.
- 1.2 On and off street car parking charges in the District were last reviewed in February 2007 (CAB 1410 refers) and increases were implemented from the beginning of April 2007.

2. Proposed further Off-street Car Parking Charge Amendments for 2007/08

- 2.1 Some minor amendments to short stay charges are needed at Tower Street and Gladstone Street Car Parks, to keep them in line with other City Centre off-street car parks, and to reflect their central location. These are shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 It was agreed by Cabinet in February 2007 that the off-street car park half hourly charge be deleted and that the minimum charge would become £0.90 per hour in town centre car parks. It was subsequently highlighted by local Members that this would cause significant problems for parents of children at St Bedes Primary School and adjacent pre-school, who currently park at St Peter's Car Park and pay the 30 minute charge whilst dropping off and picking up their children. It is therefore suggested that the half hourly rate be retained at St Peter's Car Park.

3. Outdoor Sports Centre/ Saturday Park and Ride Charges

- 3.1 The main car parking for users of the Outdoor Sports Centre will be at Barfield's and St Catherine's Park and Ride Sites. Likely demand on weekdays will be mainly after 6pm. On Saturday some users can be expected to visit the Centre for periods of up to 3 hours for training sessions.
- 3.2 In order to assist with the operation of this major new facility and to maximise use of the park and ride, it is suggested that the current parking regulation order which requires park and ride users to pay up to 6pm is amended so that parking can take place free after 4pm. It is not anticipated that this will have any effect on income, nor is it detrimental to the interests of existing park and ride users.
- 3.3 It is suggested that on Saturday the Outdoor Sports Centre users will be required to pay to park. The introduction of a 3 hour parking charge set at £1.50, on Saturdays only, would allow for the users of the Outdoor Sports Centre and would also benefit shoppers and visitors generally who are only making short visits. Use of the park and ride on Saturdays has been steadily increasing, but there are still around 400 available spaces. It is hoped that this new charge will help encourage greater use of the park and ride on Saturdays prior to the introduction of the new South of

Winchester Park and Ride. There is a risk that existing users of the park and ride on Saturdays are only staying for short periods of up to 3 hours and hence will benefit from the lower charge resulting in some lost income. This is anticipated to be low and will hopefully be off-set by increased use of the service on Saturdays. It is also hoped that this measure will encourage those currently driving into the Town Centre to use the park and ride thus resulting in wider environmental benefits. The scheme and its effects will be monitored and could be amended if necessary. It is anticipated that the new Saturday Charge could be implemented by August.

#### 4. Pay by Phone System

4.1 A recent investigation into the conversion of parking charge payment machines to accept credit cards has shown that this would cost around £1,000 per machine. This is considered too expensive to justify at present. It is suggested, however, that a trial is undertaken of a system which allows car park charges to be paid by mobile phone. This has been considered before and it was decided not to proceed at the time until the technology become more established. This seems to be the case now, although the purpose of the trial is to test the robustness of the system. Car park users would be able to use their mobile phones and pay to park by using their credit card. The system would be operated by a private company who charge the user a small amount, in addition to the car park charge to use this facility. (The cheapest company would add 10p for transactions under £2 and 20p for any transaction over £2). Such a system would provide an additional way of paying to park and hence is seen as a benefit to car park users. The purpose of the trial is to see how many car park users make use of it and therefore to determine if it is worth extending the scheme more widely.

4.2 The details of the trial or the company to be used are yet to be confirmed, but will be discussed with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport. Future possible wide-scale adoption of the system will also be discussed and agreed with the Portfolio Holder. The current Off Street Parking Places Order refers to payment of charges by use of machines, and this would need to be amended therefore to provide for payment through a remote system accessed via a mobile phone. Delegated authority is therefore sought to amend the Order accordingly, which will if possible be dealt with at the same time as the amendments referred to above.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

##### CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

The proposals accord with the corporate priority for safeguarding our high quality environment.

##### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Staff resources are available to implement the proposed changes to the charges as outlined above.

There is a risk that some income could be lost as a result of the £1.50 3 hour Saturday charge for the park and ride but this is considered to be low and will hopefully be offset by greater use at weekends by both visitors to the town and the Outdoor Sports Centre.

##### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

##### APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Option 1 Proposed amendments to off-street charges for 2007/08

WCC - Parking Office - Parking Charges Alteration Proposal												
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
	Up to ½ Hour	Up to ½ Hour	Up to 1 Hour	Up to 1 Hour	Up to 2 Hours	Up to 2 Hours	Up to 3 Hours	Up to 3 Hours	Up to 4 Hours	Up to 4 Hours	Over 4 Hours	Over 4 Hours
	£		£		£		£		£		£	£
<b>Short Stay Car Parks</b>												
The Brooks			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40		£15.00	
Middle Brook Street			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40		£15.00	
Colebrook Street			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40		£15.00	
Frarsgate			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40			
Guildhall Yard (Saturday Only)			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40			
Jewry Street			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40			
Cossack Lane			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40			
Upper Brook Street			£0.90		£1.70		£2.40		£3.40			
St.Peters		£0.30	£0.90		£1.70				£3.40			
<b>Long Stay Car Parks</b>												
Tower Street			£0.80	£0.90	£1.60	£1.70	£2.20	£2.40	£3.20	£3.40	£6.50	
Gladstone Street			£0.80	£0.90	£1.60	£1.70			£3.20	£3.40	£6.50	
Chesil Street (Multi-Storey)			£0.70		£1.40		£2.00		£2.60		£4.00	
Chesil Street (Surface)			£0.70		£1.40				£2.60		£4.00	
Durngate					£1.40				£2.60		£4.00	
Cattle Market					£1.40				£2.60		£4.00	
Worthy Lane					£1.40				£2.60		£4.00	
Coach Park (Cars)					£1.40				£2.60		£4.00	
Coach Park (Coaches)											£6.00	
River Park Leisure Centre			£0.30		£0.50		£0.70		£3.20 Up to 5 hours		£6.00	
<b>Rural Area</b>												
Lower Lane, Bishop's Waltham			£0.30		£0.60		£0.80		£1.20		£1.50	
Basingwell Street, Bishop's	Free		£0.30		£0.60		£0.80					
The Square, Wickham	Free		£0.20		£0.60		£0.80					
Alresford Station, Alresford			£0.30		£0.60		£0.80		£1.20		£1.50	
<b>Park &amp; Ride</b>												
	Current	Proposed										
	per day	per day										
Barfield **	£2.70											
St Catherines **	£2.70											

\*\* Saturday 3 hour £1.50 Charge