

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH OF FAREHAM (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT 4) ORDER 2021

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR PROPOSING THE ORDER

The Parking Service and the wider Council are under significant financial pressure and as a result a review of the Parking Service was undertaken in 2020.

This review found that there are indeed a number of serious financial pressures on the Parking Service and the wider Council as a whole:-

- i) In early 2019 Hampshire County Council gave notice that it intended to terminate the Agency Agreement at the end of March 2020. This meant that Fareham Borough Council would no longer be responsible for any aspect of on-street parking enforcement, including the management of residents permits, which would result in a loss of income and leave the service with excessive costs.
- ii) The Osborn Road Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) was constructed in 1973, providing nearly 40% of the town centre parking spaces. The car park is now reaching the end of its useful life and options have been considered to determine the future of the asset. The most cost effective is to carry out essential work at a cost of around £5.5 million.
- iii) The town centre parking equipment that supports the barrier operated car parks is ageing which results in a lot of ticket and equipment failures and requires significant investment for its replacement.
- iv) In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, charging for town centre car parks ceased between 25 March and 1 June 2020. This resulted in lost income of just over £300,000, placing further financial pressure on the Council. This against a backdrop of declining income year on year in any case.
- v) Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Council already had a £1.5 Million shortfall within its medium-term financial plan.

On 9 September 2020, the Executive approved the recommendations in the Parking Service Review Report to introduce charging in its off-street coastal car parks to help fund parking improvements as well as helping the Council to respond to the financial challenges it faces. An earlier amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order was consulted upon and charges to all of the other Coastal Car parks have subsequently been approved and will be introduced shortly. This amendment will bring the Castle car parks into line with the other coastal car parks in line with the Executive decision above.

The effects of this proposed amendments are: -

- (i) To introduce a charge of £1 per hour up to a maximum of 6 hours between 10am and 6pm in the Portchester Castle large and small Car parks, the maximum waiting period will be 12 hours.
- (ii) To extend the annual Season Tickets for the Coastal Car Parks, to incorporate the Portchester Castle large and small Car parks, the cost will be £80.