Record of Executive Decision

2 April 2012 – xpt-120402-r01-rfl

Portfolio: Strategic Planning and Environment
Subject: Parking Strategy Review: Coastal and District Centre Car Parks

Report of:
Director of Planning and Environment
Fareham Borough Parking Strategy

Objectives: Maintain and extend prosperity

Purpose:
To advise the Executive on the options and implications in relation to car parking charges for the coastal and district centre car parks and to request the Executive to decide if a charging regime should be introduced.

An overall review of the long term strategies for car parking across Fareham was agreed by the Executive at their meeting on 25 July 2011.

It was subsequently agreed that this comprised two distinct elements and that each would be considered and determined separately.

1. Options for coastal and district centre car parks;
2. Options and longer term implications for Fareham town centre car parking.

This report relates to element 1 in relation to coastal and district centre car parking.

Coastal and district car parks (and a number of smaller car parks outside of Fareham town centre) clearly require ongoing maintenance. The ten year plan for maintenance of all these car parks indicates that between 2009 and 2019 approximately £260,000 will be spent on the implementation of this plan. These costs are set out in full in Appendix A. As coastal and district car parks are not currently subject to a charging regime, ongoing maintenance costs are wholly borne by Council Tax funds. The introduction of parking charges in either or both coastal and district centre car parks would provide the opportunity to generate an annual revenue income which could assist in reducing the reliance on Council Tax funds to maintain these car parks. Clearly any parking charges regime introduced would require capital investment for the installation of payment machines (including power supply), together with ongoing costs for parking enforcement and money collection.

However, other factors which need to be considered in relation to the introduction of a parking charges regime in either or both coastal and district car parks are as follows:
- Potential impact on local use of the coastal areas for recreational purposes;
- Potential adverse economic impacts on the district centres;
- Potential for displacement of parking into residential streets resulting in increased traffic management requirements.

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A survey carried out between November and December 2011 as part of the overall review of the Council's parking strategies asked members of the public whether they believed coastal and district car parks should be funded through parking charges or Council Tax funds. Numerically, 77% were opposed to charging in the coastal car parks and 79% were opposed to charging in the district centres.

Two petitions have been received by Fareham Borough Council opposing the introduction of parking charges in Stubbington/Hillhead and Portchester respectively. These consist of 6,000 and 6,431 signatures respectively and will therefore also be reported to the Council at their meeting on 24 April 2012 for consideration.

The second element of the overall review of the Council's parking strategies (options and longer term implications for Fareham Town Centre car parking) is targeted to be presented to the Executive in October 2012.

Options Considered:
As recommendation.

Decision:
That:
(a) the Executive approve the continuation of the existing policy of no parking charges in any of the coastal and district centre car parks in the Borough;
(b) this policy for car parking charges be maintained for a period of at least 5 years due to the:
   - potential impact on local use of the coastal areas for recreational purposes;
   - potential adverse economic impacts on the district centres;
   - potential for displacement of parking into residential streets resulting in increased traffic management requirements; and
(c) the Petitioners be advised of this decision and of the reasons given above.

Reason:
In order that, as part of the overall review of the Council car parking strategies, the options and implications for introducing parking charges in the coastal and district car parks be considered.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 4 April 2012
Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)

Note: this decision will come into force at the expiration of 7 working days from the date of publication, subject to any review under the Council's 'call-in' provisions.