

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

Decision No: (CAB 13/14 10646)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
SUBJECT:	EVENING PARKING CHARGES
AUTHOR:	Paul Walker

THE DECISION

- (i) To amend the Strategic Level Parking Policy (previously approved by Cabinet on the 17 March 2008) to allow the establishment of the principle of charging for evening parking charges.
- (ii) To delegate to the Head of Transport, Highways and Parking, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, to determine detailed proposals, including costs, permit schemes and advertise Traffic Regulation Orders for evening charges, in accordance with the new policy.
- (iii) To note that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for evening charges will propose the following:
 - A flat rate charge of £2 to apply in the on street city centre pay & display zone from 6pm until 8pm after which time it will be free;
 - Multi storey car parks already charging in the evenings will see no change;
 - Evening car park charges to be introduced in city centre surface car parks at a flat rate of £2 from 6pm to midnight;
 - That the overnight annual car park season ticket charges are reduced from £250 to £150 and that this offer apply to all car parks in the city centre boundary as defined by the map in appendix 4;
 - That the maximum period of stay in the Red Zone during chargeable hours is increased to 2 hours.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Recommendation (i) seeks to confirm a new policy that allows evening parking charges to be implemented. This is in order to achieve the following outcomes:
 - Ensure that the parking service covers its costs of operation;
 - To at least maintain and improve the quality of service offered to our customers albeit at a cost;

- Encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in accordance with the Local Transport Plan;
- Reduce the level of carbon emissions from transport.

2. Recommendation (ii) is required to allow a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be advertised and determined. This is a legal process which requires the details of the evening parking charges scheme to be advertised for a period of time. It also serves as public consultation on the proposals and gives the public a further opportunity to object to the scheme or suggest minor amendments.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. The option of not implementing evening parking charges was considered and rejected on the basis that it does not meet the objectives above. The provision of parking facilities in the evening incurs significant maintenance and operation costs. Under current financial pressures, if the Council were unable to implement this proposal alternative efficiency and savings proposals would be required. This would include reducing the quality of the parking offer in Southampton.
2. Existing free parking provision is a disincentive to use other more sustainable modes of transport. It also distorts the relative affordability of the evening public transport offer compared to car use.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

Representations were received from Southampton Old Bowling Club, Southampton Old Town Residents, the Chamber of Commerce and Members of the Council.

Cabinet noted the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting held on 11th July 2013:

- (i) the Cabinet Member and officers, in light of the proposal, explore opportunities to enhance evening bus services in the City;
- (ii) when communicating the new evening car parking charges details of the charges made by comparable cities is made available; and
- (iii) that the Cabinet Member ensures that mechanisms are put in place by officers to monitor and review the impact of the new charges and report this information back to the Committee at a future date.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 16th July 2013

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*