

Consultation of Off-Street Parking Charges1. Summary of Proposed Changes for 2007/08

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006 the Business Board for Leisure, Car Parks and Markets considered a number of options concerning the possible level and type of charges for 2007/08. The final recommendation of which options to consider and therefore consult upon were put to Executive on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006 ( minute E.53/06) and amounted to a potential income of £83,445. The changes put forward are shown below:-

**a. Changes to Pay and Display Tariffs**

Ticket type	Tariff change	Increased income
Coaches 3 hours	Increase by 15p	£1,700
Park and Ride	Increase by 5p	£1,100
<b>Pay and display</b>		
30 minutes	Reduce by 20p	- £49,500
1 hour	Increase by 5p	£22,700
2 hours	Increase by 5p	£18,400
3 hours	Increase by 10p	£23,000
4 hours	Increase by 15p	£8,000
6 hours	Increase by 15p	£300
All Day	Increase by 20p	£9,500
Overnight charging	Increase by 5p	£150
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£36,700</b>

**b. Changes to the Charging Period** - To introduce a charge of £1 for parking between the hours of 1800 and 0800 during the months of March and October in key car parks. This has the potential to generate **£26,600**.

**c. Changes to other services** – To increase of other services by 3% which includes; annual permits, boat parking and winter storage, rents and pannier markets. This would generate an additional **£20,145**.

**d. Changes to Car Parking Permits** – To change the policy of allowing businesses to purchase up to five permits in the business name. This proposal consists of only allowing two registrations of vehicles on each pass and no business names. There was no value of additional income placed on this initiative.

2. Consultation

Having advertised the proposed changes to charging above a summary of the representations are:-

Comment	Previous Years			Current Year
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Disabled Charges	27	-	-	-
Further Concessions	-	-	6	2
Level of Charges	17	552	5	22
Permit Parking	17	137	-	28
<b>Total Comments</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>52</b>

### **3. Analysis of Representations Received for 2007**

Only 47 letters have been received which contain 52 views or comments as follows:-

	<b>Representation Received</b>	<b>Number of Representations</b>	<b>Officer Comment</b>	<b>Points for Consideration</b>
<b>1</b>	That charging £1 between the hours of 1800 – 0800 would have an effect on residential parking, visitors visiting pubs, restaurants and theatres.	16 (30%)	It is clear that during the months of March through to October inclusive the main car parks are used by a substantial number of users after 1800 hours and as such, there is an opportunity to generate income.	Members debated this initiative and considered that setting the charge at £1 should be both affordable and would not displace users from main car parks.  If this change is accepted it would potentially generate an income of £26,600 per annum. This would help off-set overall inflationary pressure on the service and enable rises in charging tariffs to be kept to a minimum at this time.
<b>2</b>	A request that no charges should be put in place for the car park at Inner Hope.	2 (4%)	There appears to be some confusion between a parcel of land known as Inner Hope Lay-by which is not in the District Council's control and another parcel of land known as Sun Bay Lay-by which is in this Council's ownership. Increased charges are proposed for the latter area.	There will be no charges put in place for the car park at Inner Hope.
<b>3</b>	That the initiative for removing the ability to purchase five parking permits per business be put aside.	28 (54%)	The majority of the comments came from individuals or bodies located in Dartmouth. This did include the Town Council. A number of individuals and companies have already committed themselves to supplying a permit to parties who will be renting property from them later in the year.	Members identified that the purpose of this initiative was to increase the amount of short stay car parking places for visitors during the summer months. However in light of the representations made it is clear that some extra research needs to be undertaken before changes can be made to this scheme.  There are no committed financial implications concerning this initiative.
<b>4</b>	A request not to increase car parking charges at all.	3 (6%)	In the representations made there was a strong view that car parking charges are already high and should only be increased by the rate of inflation if at all.	Members have been careful to ensure that the overall package of proposed car parking charges for 2007/08 only amount to a total rate increase equal to inflation.

	<b>Representation Received</b>	<b>Number of Representations</b>	<b>Officer Comment</b>	<b>Points for Consideration</b>
<b>5</b>	That the 20p reduction in the half hourly charge tariff is insufficient and should also be extended to the one hourly charge tariff.	1 (2%)	<p>The reason for proposing a reduction in the half hourly tariff is to support the local community and businesses. The logic being that reducing this tariff would encourage a greater turnover of parking spaces and thus, increase the number of people using local services during these shorter periods of time.</p> <p>Turning to the hourly tariff, it is considered that there is little incentive to reduce the hourly charging band at this time given the high usage of car parks which demonstrates that the hourly rate is palatable.</p>	<p>Members should be aware that the annual cost in loss of income to reduce the half hourly tariff band would be £49,500.</p> <p>For information a reduction in the one hourly tariff charge by 20p would cost an additional £110,000 district wide in loss of income. To recover this cost from Pay and Display income would require a 5% increase on existing charges to just recover the position.</p>
<b>6</b>	A view that Car Parking Permits for businesses should be increased to £1,000.	1 (2%)	<p>For information an existing Permit costs £260. Although not offered up as a proposal by the Council this is an indication from some quarters of the business community that the Council may not be making the right level of charge for this service.</p> <p>It is believed that this comment was made with the knowledge that some businesses are themselves benefiting financially from the Council's Parking Permits.</p>	<p>If Members are minded to explore this suggestion then adequate time will be required to consult with stakeholders and review the level of charge and service provision for Car Parking Permits.</p> <p>The council has issued 338 Car Park Permits to businesses which generate £75000 income currently.</p>
<b>7</b>	A request to relax charges on a Sunday for individuals attending church between October and March.	1 (2%)	It is important when delivering any public service to ensure that equality for all is maintained and that it does not raise further issues which place other parts of the community at a potential disadvantage.	<p>If Members are minded to accept this request it is advised that it ought to apply to any Sunday user on the grounds of equality.</p> <p>It is calculated that in excess of £200,000 is generated from charging on a Sunday. Off-setting this loss of income would require a 12% increase in Pay and Display charges just to recover the position.</p>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52 (100%)</b>		

#### **4. Summary**

The Executive may wish to consider these views and potential implications as part of the discussion on draft Budget proposals for 2007/08.