

**Council – 8 February 2007**

**REVIEW OF CAR PARK CHARGES**

**Report of the Head of Business Development**

**Statutory Powers:** District of South Hams (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2007.

**Financial Implications:** As set out in Draft Budget Proposals 2007/2008

**Purpose**

To consider representations made in respect of the Off Street Parking Places (Amendment) Order 2007 and approve a Revised Scheme for 2007.

**Recommendations**

**That the Council RESOLVES:**

- (i) To note the representations made in respect of the 2007 Order and confirm the revised scheme as attached subject to not implementing the changes to permits issued to businesses but reviewing the arrangements and reporting back to members at a later stage.**
- (ii) That officers be instructed to confirm the Order accordingly and to publicise the confirmation in accordance with statutory requirements, with the Order to come into effect on 25 March 2007.**

**Background**

1. The Off Street Parking Places (Amendment) Order 2007 is the statutory mechanism used to set the Council's car parking charges annually. In order for Members to set these charges and as part of the consultation process, the Order and proposed tariffs are published annually.
2. On the 13 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 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

<b>Ticket type</b>	<b>Tariff change</b>	<b>Increased income</b>
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.

3. At its meeting held on 12 October 2006, the Executive proposed subject to consultation, a review scheme of parking charges (“the revised scheme”) (minute E.53/06 refers). An Order was drawn up and advertised in accordance with statutory requirements and representations were due before 29 December 2006. A file containing all the letters is available in the Members’ Room.
4. A summary of the comments received was presented to the Executive on the 25 January as an addendum to the draft budget proposals for 2007/08. The Executive endorsed the proposal that the Off Street Parking Order should remain as it was presented, subject to a review on the issue of car parking permits for businesses being undertaken and reported back to Members in due course.

#### Consultation

5. In previous years the Council has received the following number of written comments or views which have been taken into account at this point in the process:-

Comment	Previous Years			Current Year (for comparison)
	2004	2005	2006	
				2007
Disabled Charges	27	-	-	-
Further Concessions	-	-	6	2
Level of Charges	17	552	5	22
Permit Parking	17	137	-	28

6. The proposed tariffs and charging bands for 2007/08 are contained in the Revised Scheme at Appendix A.
7. Only forty seven letters have been received which contain fifty two views or comments. An analysis of the representations received together with points for consideration are contained in Appendix B:

### **Observations and Comments**

8. There are in South Hams 42,000 domestic premises and 4,500 non domestic rated premises (majority businesses). In total forty seven letters were received. Of these, three letters originated from Town or Parish Councils, one from a Chamber of Trade and two letters from representatives of Tourist Information Centres.
9. In relation to the sale of car park permits to businesses the majority of comments in respect of this proposal came from Dartmouth businesses. The main principle behind the changes was to increase the amount of available short stay car parking space in Mayors Avenue car park Dartmouth and thus support local businesses that survive on a healthy turnover of customers. This was mainly directed towards general shops, restaurants and pubs. From the comments received there is an issue with self catering properties and hotels that do not have sufficient car parking space for their patrons and rely on supplying a transferable pass to their customers.
10. Comment has also been received that users of self catering premises prefer to park near to their accommodation and not make use of the Park and Ride in Dartmouth. This does conflict with the principle of Park and Ride in that it is in place to take up the short fall in long stay car parking in the main town.
11. Members should be aware that some businesses have already committed themselves for 2007/2008 in the way of promotional information to supply a pass to users of their business.
12. In light of the comments concerning the initiative to remove the right of businesses to have an open pass and only allow two registration numbers on each pass. It is recommended to review the issue and report back to members the findings at a later stage. This has been further endorsed as previously mentioned by the Executive on the 25 January 2007.

## Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Mitigating Actions
The Council's Revised Scheme unfairly disadvantages a particular sector of the community.	As part of a current review of council charges taking place, the Council's policy in respect of parking will be equality impact assessed.
The Council does not adopt some or all of the levels of charges and changes. It will therefore not receive the income it has budgeted for.	Revenue or savings will have to be found from other areas within the Council.

## Conclusion

13. Members will recall that the proposed charges have been set at a level to ensure consistency in the car park charging policy and to help offset the increase in Council Tax necessary to meet the projected budget deficit.

C J Lucas  
Head of Business Development

Council  
8 February 2007

**Background Documents:** Legal Sections File, Car Parking Section File