

**ITEM**

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**Council – 25 March 2010**

## **REVIEW OF CAR PARK CHARGES AND CONDITIONS**

### **Report of the Head of Environment Services**

**Statutory Powers:** District of South Hams (Off Street Parking Places) Order 1999. including sections 35(1)(3) and 3A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

**Financial Implications:** As set out in Draft Budget Proposals 2010/2011

### **Purpose**

To consider representations made in respect of the South Hams (Permit and Boat Storage) Readvertised (Amendment) Order 2010 and approve a Revised Scheme for 2010.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Council RESOLVES:**

- (i) To note the representations made in respect of the 2010 Order and confirm the revised scheme. Subject to any variation members may wish to introduce based on the comments received during the consultation process.**
- (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 25th March 2010.**

### **Background**

1. The District of South Hams (Permit and Boat Storage) (Amendment) Order 2010 is the statutory mechanism used to set the Council's car parking charges. 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 4 February 2010, the Council considered reports from the Executive on the proposed level of car and boat parking charges and changes in conditions proposed for 2010/2011. Officers were authorised to advertise the changes in charges and conditions in accordance with statutory requirements. The draft Order was advertised on 17 February 2010.

## Consultation

2. There is an obligation to advertise the revised charges. For a change of conditions there is also an obligation to consult. For the matter of completeness both the level of charges and changes in conditions are advertised at the same time in local newspapers and comments considered before adopting the new conditions.
3. Copies of email and letters received have been made available to members prior to the full council meeting. Any interested parties who wish to view copies of these letters are asked to contact Member Support Services on (01803) 861273 or by email at: [member.support@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:member.support@southhams.gov.uk)

	Letters\emails	Objection\comment
Pay and Display charges	0	
Annual Permits	2	Price
Business Permit	12	Price and effect on tourism\economy.
Residents Permit	6	Price
Leisure Permit	3	Relocation of users from The Quay car park – The Cattle Market car park

4. The advertising of the order had two purposes. To inform stakeholders on the new level of charges and also to seek comment on changes in the conditions for parking. As far as comment on pricing is concerned members only need to note the level of comment.
5. The comments on Leisure Permits relate to a change in arrangements. Three comments were received. One comment related to an enquiry for additional information so effectively was not a criticism of the arrangement. Two of the comments related to the actual initiative of relocating leisure permit users to the Cattle Market from the Quay Car park. The decision to introduce this change was not taken likely. The leisure centre is located at the far end of the Quay car park so therefore the majority of leisure permit users park at this end of the car park. Very soon a skate park will be constructed at the far end of the car park. This will effectively reduce the number of car parking spaces in the car park. This would then mean that the leisure permit holders would gravitate into the main parking area and possibly frustrate the ability of Pay and Display users to use the car park.
6. It must also be noted that for some years the district council has held a lease for Cookworthy car park. The lease has been withdrawn as the car park is to be developed for a supermarket. An additional car park is planned but will not be of the same capacity of Cookworthy Car Park. The council had already put in place arrangements to manage some of the associated issues transpiring from this initiative by resurfacing and preparing the Cattle Market as a car park. The proposed strategy would be that as far as reasonably possible the council should relocate permit holders to secondary locations such as the Cattle Market so that short stay users have the ability to park in the Quay car park. The relocation of leisure permit holders would be following that strategy. Additional comment was also made that parking in town is difficult and that the council should reassess the

towns car parking needs. The issue that the council has is finding the additional land to accommodate car parking. Given the set of circumstances the better solution is to manage car parking smarter by following the strategy previously described. In summary members will need to consider if the Council should proceed with the changes in arrangements or vary the arrangement.

### **Risk Assessment**

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
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**

- 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.

Chris Lucas  
Head of Environment Services

Council  
 25 March 2010

**Background Documents:** Legal Section's File, save for those documents which contain legally privileged information, Car Parking Section File. Draft The District of South Hams (Permit and Boat Storage) Readvertised (Amendment) Order 2010.