



REPORT of CAR PARKING TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP

**to
COUNCIL
8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

PARKING UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members following the introduction of weekend and evening parking charges on service use, seek authority to extend the agreed parking review period and introduce a temporary resident permit for the Wantz Road area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) that the Council notes the service performance of Maldon Town Centre Car Parks since the introduction of weekend and evening charging period,
- (ii) that the Council agrees to the extension of the 6 month review of the impact of the introduction of new charges on the community until January 2017,
- (iii) that a new temporary resident's parking permit be made available to eligible residents living in Wantz Road, America Street and Wantz Chase on Saturdays and Sundays only until the South Essex Parking Partnership implement a resident's parking scheme in the area.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 New Charges

- 3.1.1 In April this year new parking charges were implemented by the Council. In summary charging was introduced during the evenings within Town Centre car parks (fixed £1 fee) and on Sundays (also £1 fixed fee). A charge was also introduced within the car park of these offices (variable rate on Saturdays, fixed £1 fee on a Sunday). An overall increase in 'day time' fees was also made. The tables set out with **APPENDIX 1** give performance data for the first three months of operation.
- 3.1.2 The figures in the first table show income following the introduction of the new charges as being in line with expectations; however it is too early to draw any firm conclusions about the annual performance based upon this limited timespan. The second table outlines the number of tickets sold in the evenings, it is important that the average number of tickets sold is also noted. The figures do not show any drop in the number of tickets sold and there is no evidence to date to say that there is a drop in the number of cars coming into the car parks.

- 3.1.3 The last table refers to Sunday parking and again it is important to look at the average number of tickets sold; this shows an increasing trend.

3.2 Six Month Review

- 3.2.1 At the meeting of the Council on 4 February 2016 (Minute No. 875 refers), Members agreed that that ‘a review of the above new arrangements once implemented, be undertaken within six months properly to assess their impact, with full stakeholder involvement, and that the Director of Customers and Community reports back to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee as to the scoping of the review’.
- 3.2.2 The Car Parking Task and Finish Working Group (the Working Group) has met on a number of occasions during the implementation of the charges and most recently on 15 July. At this meeting community representatives discussed the difficulty of gathering hard evidence upon the impact of new charges. Helpfully Sarah Laskar, Director of Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service attended the July meeting and offered to assist the community groups. However, all of the voluntary sector and Working Group members felt more time was required for the review to conclude and the meeting recommended this should now be re-set at the end of January 2017. Sarah Laskar has written to the Council requesting Members also defer any decision on increasing parking charges as part of the 2017 / 18 budget process until the review reaches a conclusion. A copy of the letter is attached at **APPENDIX 2**. A January deferral of the working group review does not sit well with the Council budget cycle but the Working Group feel additional time is required to complete the review and a full nine months of operation would give a better feel of the impacts within the community.
- 3.3 Resident Parking Permit
- 3.3.1 As part of the introduction of new charges new resident’s parking permits were introduced, at cost, for residents of housing near to our car parks affected by the evening or weekend charges. Since that time residents from the Wantz Road area have contacted the Council asking for a similar arrangement to be introduced for them as the weekend charges at the Council Offices are directly impacting upon them. It should be noted that the South Essex Parking Partnership intends to introduce a resident’s parking scheme for the area in 2017 following a change in traffic flows so any local Maldon District Council (MDC) arrangement would cease at this time. The Working Group supported this request.

4. LINKS WITH CORPORATE GOALS

- 4.1 The implementation of new parking charges links directly to our goal of ‘delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services’.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Council has agreed to invite community groups to make representations to the Council demonstrating the impact of the

changes to parking charges. The Car Parking Task and Finish Working Group have met on several occasions and community groups have contributed to the meetings. Customers continue to use our car parks and there appears to be no decline within the first three months of operation under the new arrangements.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Income is in line with estimates at the time of drafting this report.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None identified.

Background Papers: None.

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