



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

**to
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 APRIL 2017**

AND

**FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
25 APRIL 2017**

PERMIT FOR SCHOOL PARENTS PARKING

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to propose a new permit to enable parents to pre pay for the use of Council's car parks for picking up and dropping off their children at school.
- 1.2 This matter is brought forward for consideration with the agreement of the Chairman due to the procedural and preparation work required in order for the new arrangements, if agreed, to take effect from 1 June 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Community Services Committee:

- (i) that a parking permit is made available to all parents of children attending Maldon schools to use to park in the Council car parks for a standard school term of 39 weeks;
- (ii) that the new arrangements commence on 1 June 2017 and until then the informal arrangements continue;

To the Finance and Corporate Services Committee

- (iii) that subject to approval of (i) and (ii) above, a new parking permit for parents of children attending Maldon Schools to use to park in the Council car parks for a standard term of 39 weeks costing £200 per year is introduced. The Permit cost will be linked to any variation in future parking charges;
- (iv) that subject to (iii) above, the Council's 2017 / 18 Fees and Charges be updated accordingly.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As part of the 2017 / 18 budget setting process it was agreed the existing ‘informal’ free use of the Council’s car parks by parents to drop off and pick up school children should be withdrawn. This privilege had applied to three schools; St Francis Catholic Primary School, Maldon Court Preparatory School and the Watership Downs Nursery School. As a consequence, the car park users were advised to purchase tickets for the period of their stay or purchase a standard £580 permit which would enable them to park at any time.
- 3.2 Following the Council decision (Minute No. 768 refers) the three schools were written to advising that from the commencement of the summer term (18 April 2017) those parents using the car park would have to pay the same minimum £1 rate as other users of the car parks for each stay. There have been ten complainants from the Preparatory School and none from the other two schools regarding this decision. Some of the complainants accept that there should be a charge for the use of the car park but that the £580 tariff is too high. Given the speedy nature of the morning drop offs they do not want to have to go to the machine and pay each time but would be prepared to pay for a more appropriately priced permit.
- 3.3 After a discussion with the Bursar of the Maldon Court School it was agreed to give the parents more time to make other travel arrangements by extending the commencement of the charging date to 1 June 2017.
- 3.4 Officers have considered the issues raised by parents to see if a solution could be found which results in car park users paying for the time spent in the council car parks but reduces the inconvenience to our customers. It is clear most parents wish to pay for a 30 minute period twice a day. The current minimum stay and charge is for one hour at a cost of £1.
- 3.5 It is proposed in future that all parents of children attending local Maldon Schools are offered a permit that will enable them to park in the Council car parks and which is reflective of the cost of half an hours usage twice a day for the purposes of picking up and dropping off school children. The minimum tariff available to users of the car parks is £1 so the Schools permit will be a specific concession and not available to any other customers.
- 3.6 The permit would reflect a standard school term of 39 weeks and cost £200 which includes a £5 administrative charge. The scheme would be administered directly by the Council to maintain control. Enforcement of the permit system would be undertaken by the existing Council enforcement team.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Schools parking permit would enable parents to continue to park in the Council’s car park but at a rate which is reflective of their minimal use. The new permit system will be administered directly by the Council to maintain control.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 This report links to the Corporate Goal of delivering good quality cost effective and valued services

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Council has adopted a ‘fair use’ and ‘user pays’ principle for its car parks recently introducing both evening and weekend charges. Feedback from parents affected seems to indicate a willingness to pay for parking but any charge should reflect the time spent in the car park and be convenient to use.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – No issues identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The cost of the permit reflects the use of the parking spaces and a small administrative charge is included within the cost of the permit.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified as existing staff will administer and enforce the new permit. An administrative charge included within the permit which will cover any additional costs.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – No issues identified.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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ADDENDUM

The Community Services Committee considered this report at its meeting on 11 April and resolved:

That the Council does not make available parking permits to parents of children attending Maldon schools to use in Council car parks and the Finance and Corporate Services Committee be advised accordingly.