



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY

**to
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
4 JULY 2017**

PERMIT FOR SCHOOL PARENTS PARKING

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to formally consult with Members of this Committee on a proposal to introduce a new permit for Maldon Court School. Further investigations have indicated the school has no other parking facility within reasonable proximity to the school entrance. The permit will enable parents to pre pay for the use of a Council car park for picking up and dropping off their children at school.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members note the report to Council on 13 July recommending the introduction of a new permit scheme specifically designed to address a parking issue associated with Maldon Court School
- (ii) That Members Comments are sought regarding the proposal which will be relayed to the Council at its next meeting on 13 July.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The proposal to formalise an informal parking arrangement for parents of children attending local schools was considered by this committee on 11 April 2017. The recommendation was to introduce a permit for £200 per academic year which would be offered to each parent of the schools identified. The proposal was not approved at the meeting (Minute No. 1182 refers) stating:

‘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’.

- 3.2 This decision resulted in further objections by the staff and parents of Maldon Court School.

- 3.3 The matter was then discussed at the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting on 26 April 2017 where it was resolved that:

- (i) the Finance and Corporate Services Committee support, in principle, a parking permit for parents of children attending Maldon schools;

- (ii) the Director of Customers and Community be requested to work up the proposal for a parking permit for parents of children attending Maldon schools in consultation with Members of the Community Services Committee and this be brought forward to the July meeting of the Council for consideration;
 - (iii) the current informal arrangements for free use of the Council's car parks by parents to drop off and pick up school children be extended to end July 2017.
- 3.4 Further to the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee the available parking facilities at the schools and in the surrounding areas have been re assessed by Officers. It is evident that there is no ability to legally park, drop off or pick up at or near to the Maldon Court School, but it is feasible to do this at the other schools previously offered informal drop off and collection parking. This implies that other schools would be able to work with South Essex Parking Partnership to introduce the 3PR (Parking Rules) project as presented to Members at the last meeting of this Committee to encourage safer parking around schools; Maldon Court School would not benefit greatly from this option.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The proposal for a schools parking permit is only applicable to the Maldon Court School due to the unique parking issues identified. The introduction of a school specific permit would enable parents to park in the Council's White Horse Lane car park for 30 minutes at the start and finish of a normal school day. The cost of the permit will be at a rate which is reflective of their minimal use and in line with existing charges. The new permit system will be administered directly by the Council to parents to maintain control.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the permit is trialled for two academic years commencing September 2017 in order to assess its popularity.
- 4.3 A report has been prepared for the meeting of Council on 13 July detailing the proposal. The report is attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

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)** – Existing staff will administer and enforce the new permit. An administrative charge will be included within the permit to cover any additional costs.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – No issues identified.

Background Papers: None.

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