



**Committee Prosperous
Communities**

Date 5th December 2017

Subject: Car Parking Consultation Feedback

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To review the results of the consultation exercise regarding charging timebands and free periods, and seek Members approval to introduce 1 hour Free Parking in Gainsborough and withdrawing Free After 3pm parking.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That members:

- 1. Approve the majority view of the consultees that a period of 1 hour free parking at any time be introduced in Gainsborough with effect from 1st April 2018 and support this amendment to the parking tariffs.**
- 2. Approve the withdrawal of Free After 3pm parking with effect from 1st April 2018.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The change would require a revision of the legal order

Financial: FIN/111/18

The Car Parking Strategy approved in July 2017 identified a net contribution to the Council of £90k p.a. (£60k of which will be utilised to fund future investment in Car Parking).

Included in this amount was the estimated cost of £35k for the introduction of 1 hour free anytime and additional income of £17k for reintroducing charging after 3pm. Therefore an £18k net reduction in income.

The additional costs of signage, legal work and changes to machine software will cost circa £2k and this will be contained within the overall Car Parking Budget.

The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, at their meeting in July 2017 approved to accept the decision of this Committee in relation to approving these costs, as part of the Car Parking Funding Strategy.

Staffing: The resource time to implement the changes would come from within existing staff time

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None. Blue badge users are unaffected by the proposed changes.

Risk Assessment:

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Corporate Policy and Resources Committee 27 July 2017

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report follows an earlier report on the review of the Parking Strategy for Gainsborough. It was resolved that a consultation exercise be carried out on alternative charging options. This report summarises the findings of the options and seeks Members approval for implementing the preferred option that charges are reinstated from 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday with the first hour free.

2. Introduction

2.1 In accordance with the wishes of the Chair and Prosperous Communities Committee, earlier this year the council carried out a review and update of the Gainsborough Car Parking Strategy to ensure that the supply of car parking responds to current and future demand; and is aligned to the regeneration programme of the town. The primary aim of the review was to support town centre viability and local traders demonstrating that the Council has listened and responded to concerns in this regard.

2.2 There have been frequent calls from businesses over recent years for a period of free parking in Gainsborough. In August 2016 the Council introduced free parking after 3pm on the chargeable days (Monday – Saturday). Whilst measure was generally well received, some businesses were still requesting a free initial period of parking.

2.3 When the Parking Strategy Review was reported to Committee in June 2017, it was resolved that the Council consult town centre businesses and stakeholders on the following:

- Allow the first hour of parking to be free at any time; or
- To retain the free after 3pm policy.

Officers were subsequently advised that a minimum of three options would be required to constitute appropriate consultation. Consequently the option of charging from 8am – 6pm was added as the 3rd option.

3. Consultation Exercise

3.1 A copy of the consultation form is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 A copy of the results is attached at Appendix 2

3.3 A summary of the results is as follows;

1 st hour free at any time, charging 8am-6pm Monday – Saturday	68% in favour
Charge for parking between 8am – 3pm Monday – Saturday, free after 3pm	26% in favour
Charge for parking between 8am – 6pm Monday – Saturday	6% in favour

A range of comments (around 180) were also received. These will be grouped into similar areas and responses will be provided via the web site. If members would like to see the full set of comments they can be sent on request.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The estimated annual cost of changing from the current arrangement of free after 3pm to 1st hour free is an estimated reduction in income of £17k, whereas a change to the 8am to 6pm charging tariff would raise an estimated £17k per annum. There are one-off costs of implementing the changes to signage, machine software and legal fees of around £2k

The Gainsborough Car Parking Strategy included this proposal within its finance and approved to accept the decision of this Committee in this regard. Therefore the reduction in income will be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Approve the majority view of the consultees that a period of 1 hour free parking at any time be introduced in Gainsborough with effect from 1st April 2018 and support this amendment to the parking tariffs.

5.2 Approve the withdrawal of Free After 3pm parking with effect from 1st April 2018