



**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 30 October 2014

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Report Title:** Parking Charges and Enforcement Activity

**Is the decision a key decision?** Yes – General Exception

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** As soon as possible

Director Lead Contact: Charles Uzzell – Director of Place

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## **1. Purpose and Introduction**

- 1.1 To review Parking Charges and Enforcement activity and the consequences of any amendments in relation to the projected end of year budget outturn for 2014/15.

Members should be aware that implementation of options which relate to parking charges requires legal notices to be produced and sealed, Records of Decision drafted and signed and then Notices to be published within the local press and advertised for a period 21 days prior to implementation.

- 1.2 Members have been informed that the Parking and Enforcement account is projecting an end of year budget deficit of £361,000.

The total deficit figure of £361,000 comprises of the following:

£200,000 due to reduced enforcement activity  
£91,000 due to the removal of the camera car enforcement  
£30,000 due to shortfall in Off Street parking income  
£40,000 shortfall in On Street parking income

- 1.3 The Director of Place was instructed to report back to the Administration with options to recover this budget deficit before the year end. This report recommends the most appropriate options to recover this deficit.

Note: These options do not to include the reintroduction of the camera car for parking enforcement.

- 1.4 In response to the reported impact of reduced enforcement activity the Director of Place has authorised the reinstatement of deployed Civil Enforcement Officers to the level originally agreed within the business plan produced at the time the Council approved the in house delivery of this service. The number of Officers on patrol had previously been reduced following discussions with Members who had concerns about the level of enforcement activity and wished to see what the consequences of reduced enforcement might be.

- 1.5 In addition to the recommendations proposed to recover the potential budget deficit, the Executive Lead with responsibility for the Parking and Enforcement Service has requested Officers to consider reducing Off Street parking charges during the winter months. Recommendations cannot be made to introduce off-street parking reductions as this would increase the budget deficit by an additional £85,000 based on the pricing bands proposed in Option 3.
- 1.6 The budget set by the Council for 2014/15 does not include the cost of providing this reduction in parking charges. In the event that reduced off-street parking charges are introduced the total project deficit would then be £446,700.
- 1.7 If compensating reductions to the Resident and Visitor Services budget or additional income is not approved to offset the reduction in the budgeted level of car parking income for 2014/15, Council will have to agree that the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) Reserve is used to underwrite any shortfall in income.
- 1.8 Members will be aware that the CSR reserve was set up to meet the financial challenges faced over the next few years with its main purpose to fund the costs of restructuring and any unforeseen events or budget pressures that arise. The CSR reserve had a balance of £3.8m at the start of the financial year. It is estimated that restructuring costs will amount to £1m and transitional funding of £0.5m is estimated to support 15/16 budget (subject to council approval). In addition the Council has a projected overspend of £2.138m – all of these pressures would be funded from the CSR reserve. Members need to take these issues into consideration when making this decision.

## **2. Proposed Decision**

- 2.1 That options 1 and 2 as set out in the submitted report be approved to reduce the current projected budget deficit of £361,000 within the Parking and Enforcement Service.

## **3. Reason for Decision**

- 3.1 Options 1 and 2 as detailed in this report are proposed to respond to the projected end of year deficit in the Parking and Enforcement Service budget.
- 3.2 These options are proposed to recover the projected budget deficit which will assist the Council in delivering a balanced budget position and remove the risk of further reductions in other services areas or use of the Council Reserve fund. However, the continuation of the summer parking charges as proposed in these options may impact on the number of residents and visitors prepared to park in the town centre areas during the winter months with a consequential impact on the local economy.
- 3.3 Option 3 has been considered by officers but cannot be recommended due to the budget deficit which is projected. This option may encourage use of town centre car

parks, however there is a potential cost to the Council of £85,700 in lost income which may put other Council services at risk.

## Supporting Information

### 4. Position

- 4.1 Members have been informed that the Parking and Enforcement account is projecting an end of year budget deficit of £361,000.

The total deficit figure of £361,000 comprises of the following:

£200,000 due to reduced enforcement activity  
£91,000 due to the removal of the camera car enforcement  
£30,000 due to shortfall in Off Street parking income  
£40,000 shortfall in On Street parking income

- 4.2 The Director of Place was instructed to report back to the Administration with options to recover this budget deficit before the year end. These options are now presented to Council for consideration.

### 5. Possibilities and Options

#### 5.1 Option 1

To retain the existing Off Street parking charges until the end of the financial year, this will limit the loss to the existing projection of £30,000 with the potential to further reduce this figure however this cannot be accurately calculated due to the lack of data relating to variable winter charges as a fixed £2 charge was in operation last year.

To assist Members in assessing this option it should be noted that compared to the 2012/13 variable winter Off Street parking charges the £2 promotion in operation last winter 2013/14 resulted in **£95,800** (excluding VAT) less income being collected. This may give some indication of the potential additional income that might be achieved if the variable summer charges are continued throughout the winter period.

Details of the existing summer Off Street parking charges are given at **Appendix 1**.

#### 5.2 Option 2

To retain the summer On Street parking charges until the financial year end and not to introduce the winter charges as currently schedule from 1 November 2014.

This is anticipated to generate an **additional £150,000** allowing for a 20% customer resistance.

See **Appendix 2** which compares the current summer On Street parking charges with the scheduled reduced winter charges.

### 5.3 Option 3

The administration has explored the following option: to introduce a reduced parking charge for Off Street parking from December 2014 until April 2015, as shown below.

50p 30mins (limited sites as detailed below)  
£2 up to 4 hrs  
£3 up to 24hrs

#### Limited sites for 30 minute charge:

These sites have been selected to provide short stay parking Off Street where access to short stay On Street is limited

Torquay	Paignton	Brixham
Abbey Park	Victoria	Brixham Central
Harbour	Roundham	
Meadfoot Road	Youngs Park	
Lower union Lane Shoppers	Great Western	
Union Square	Broadsands	
Brunswick Square		
Princes Street		
St Marychurch		
Hampton Ave		
Chilcote Close		

These reduced charges when compared to the variable charges in place for winter 2012/13 will potentially increase the existing budget deficit for Parking and Enforcement by a further £85,700 excluding VAT and this money will need to be recovered from elsewhere within the Council's budget. There may also be further loss of income due to customers exchanging tickets. Therefore this option is not recommended by officers.

### 6. Fair Decision Making

Consultation has taken place with internal Council Officers and Members

### 7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

There are no procurement of services requires as a result of the recommendations.

### 8. Risks

- 8.1 The risks associated with this report are financial and identified within each of the proposed options. Failure to make a decision may impact on the Councils end of year budget position.

### Appendices

Appendix 1 Off Street Parking charges

Appendix 2 Comparison of summer On Street parking charges with the scheduled reduced winter charges.