

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Councillor Linda Neal – Portfolio Holder for Strategic Partnerships

REPORT NO: AFM0190

DATE: 3rd March 2011

TITLE:	VARIATION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES - (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) (PAY AND DISPLAY) ORDER 2010	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Statutory Order	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	COUNCILLOR CARTWRIGHT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
CONTACT OFFICERS:	L.Banner – Service Manager Property and Facilities l.banner@southkesteven.gov.uk P.Stokes – Head of Assets p.stokes@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below:	Full impact assessment Required:No
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via Your Council and Democracy website link: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Urgent Cabinet Member Decision – Approval for public consultation on reduced scheme of parking charges. Minutes of the Cabinet meeting 7.2.11	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) Council approve the amendments to the South Kesteven District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Pay and Display) Order 2010 to adopt the revised schedule of charges (attached to this report in Appendix 1) provided no significant level of adverse feedback is received from the public consultation due to be completed on 4 March 2011.
- (b) In the event of any adverse comment being received by the 4th March 2011 on completion of the public consultation, delegate the decision whether or not to approve the amendments to South Kesteven District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Pay and Display) Order 2010 proposed at recommendation (a) above to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

- 2.1 To seek Council's approval to introduce lower car parking charges in short stay car parks in Grantham and Stamford.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 A fundamental review of the Council's car parking strategy is planned to be completed in 2012. This review will take into account a range of factors including the location and utilisation of Council car parks across the district and the contribution that these facilities make to the vitality and sustainability of our town centres.
- 3.2 The Council has a number of initiatives planned to drive forward its ambitions to help business grow, thrive and develop through its Good For Business Priority Theme. The Council's budget proposals for 2011/12 contain provision for a range of short and medium term economic projects which are intended to support local businesses. Feedback from businesses has indicated that car parking is an important factor and therefore a proposal to consult on a reduction to short stay car parking charging levels was considered and approved at Cabinet on 7 February.
- 3.3 The effect of the proposals is to significantly reduce the short stay charges to encourage shoppers in particular to stay longer in the town centres and make more use of our local businesses. Details of the tariff changes are contained in the amended Order appended to this report however the net effect of the proposal is to reduce short-stay prices by between 10 - 50%. The only exception to this proposed reduction is the car park at Wharf Road, Grantham where no change will be made to the rate for parking over three hours. The reason for this exclusion is to prevent rail commuters using this car park as a cheaper alternative to long stay options in the vicinity of the railway station and so reduce the number of conveniently located parking spaces available for shoppers. In summary the key changes to the tariffs are:
- No change to the 30 minute charge of 50p
 - Up to 1 hour - reduce from £1.00 to 80p
 - Up to 2 hours - reduce from £1.50 to £1.30
 - Up to 3 hours - reduce from £2.00 to £1.80
 - Up to 4 hours - reduce from £6.00 to £3.00
 - Over 4 hours - reduce from £8.00 to £4.00
- 3.4 Consultation commenced on 11th February 2011, allowing a time period of 21 days for objections. Notices were also placed in the car parks concerned and made available on the Council's website. A copy of the draft order was also available for inspection in the Council Offices.
- 3.5 In order to maximise the benefit of this proposal this report has been brought for consideration by to the Council prior to the completion of public consultation on 4 March 2011. At the point of preparation no comments had been received and a verbal update will be provided to members at the meeting.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Retaining short stay car parking charges at the current levels.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals may lead to lower levels of income from car parking however the potential shortfall will be cross-subsidised through provisions made within economic development budgets.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

Risk

6.1 Not Applicable.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This proposal has been assessed and is not likely to have any detrimental impact

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. COMMENTS OF DEPUTY SECTION 151 OFFICER

9.1 The proposed budgets for 2011/12 have been compiled on the basis of retaining the current car parking tariffs. However in response to businesses and ensuring the towns economic viability is supported, the proposal in this report is to reduce car parking tariffs for a one year period.

9.2 The budget for 2011/12 that is detailed in report HOF148 (and is featured on this Council agenda) includes a specific sum under the heading 'economic initiatives' and is detailed at page 8. It is proposed to utilise the budget under this heading to fund the reduction in car parking tariffs. Utilising the budget in this way will not compromise the overall budget framework as any reduction in income will be offset. However, as the main objective is to encourage shoppers and visitors to stay for longer periods in the towns, it is anticipated that any reductions in income will not be significant.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

10.1 This report is made as a recommendation from Cabinet following an urgent non-key and key decision which have been reported to Council at item number of the Agenda for its meeting on the 3rd March 2011.

10.2 The consultation process carried out as a result of the urgent non-key decision does not end until the 4th March 2011. The next Council meeting will not take place until the 19th May 2011. The recommendation requested in this report will enable a decision to be taken provided no relevant consultation feedback is received by the 4th March 2011. If any feedback is received it is recommended that Council delegate a decision to the Portfolio Holder taking into account any feedback without further reference to Council. If a change to the car parking order can be approved, the change should be implemented by the 1st April 2011.