

Transportation Sub-Committee Minute 130

Members considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which outlined the type of ticket issuing machine which might be considered for the Council's Pay and Display car parks and the types of ticket style which could be adopted. £34,000 had been provided in the 2000/01 Capital Programme for the upgrade of the machines to a type that would link the ticket to the actual vehicle for which it had originally been purchased.

The Head of Revenue and Housing Management made a short visual presentation demonstrating on paper the operation of the new type of machine and providing detailed costs to Members to show how 14 machines could be purchased from the capital budget of £34,000 together with a revenue expenditure vired from the provision for machine maintenance. The two existing machines at the Approach Car Park, Rayleigh could be retained for a time, as they were mainly used by season ticket holders and day stay users and were therefore subject to less ticket swapping.

The Head of Service informed Members that an extensive Public Relations exercise would take place at the time of the changeover to ensure that the public are familiarised with the new tariffs and subsequently the operation of the new machines.

The new type of ticket machine would use a thermal printer instead of an impact printer and the existing tickets would no longer be suitable which brought into question the sustainability of the Trader Refund scheme. The Head of Service passed around a variety of tickets which had been detailed in the report.

Members were advised that in future it would cost less to make the necessary alterations to the machine for any change of car parking tariff. The machine had a capacity to hold 10,000 tickets (6,000 of the sticky back type).

On a motion moved by Councillor G Fox and seconded by Councillor A Hosking it was:-

Recommended

- (1) that provision of a Trader Refund Scheme through the production of a valid bus ticket or other means be investigated following consultation with the Chambers of Trade on the continuation of the existing scheme.
- (2) that the sticky back, single print ticket be adopted as the most economic and efficient use of resources

- (3) that with the exception of the two machines in the Approach Car Park, Rayleigh, the remaining 14 machines across the District be upgraded and that for this purpose the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee be asked to request suitable virement from the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the Ticket Machine Maintenance purchase
- (4) that the Head of Service be authorised to dispose of the existing machines at the best price possible by negotiation or tender.
- (5) that a report on the phased machine upgrade programme be made available. (HRHM)