

## **CAR PARK TARIFF**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider a report on options proposed by the Review Committee (minute 52/15) for adjustments to the car parking tariff.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Following consideration of a report on car park income on 3 March 2015, the Review Committee requested information on the financial implications of changes to the car park charging tariff.

### **3 CHANGES SUGGESTED BY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 The Review Committee suggested that consideration be given to the following tariff changes:
- Free parking after 6 p.m;
  - Free parking all day on Saturdays;
  - Free parking for Blue Badge holders;
  - Free parking all day on the first two Saturdays following Christmas.
- 3.2 Free parking after 6 p.m. – It is estimated that the annual cost of changing the charging time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. would reduce income by about £20,000. The 7 p.m. cut off has been in place, it is understood, for more that 20 years.
- 3.3 Free parking on Saturday mornings – It is estimated that car park income would reduce by about £150,000.
- 3.4 Free parking for Blue Badge holders – it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the reduction in income from this suggested change to the tariff. However, it should be borne in mind that Blue Badge holders do already receive a concession of an extra free hour.
- 3.5 Free parking on the two Saturdays after Christmas – the estimate for reduced income is £4,000.

### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any changes to the car park tariff will have resource implications for the Council's budget.
- 4.2 Applying charges for all users of the Council's car parks reduces the risk of abuse.

- 4.3 Free periods and other adjustments to the charging arrangements will reduce turnover in car parks and this can negatively influence the level of footfall in the town centres.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 As set out in the report, the suggested changes to car park charges would reduce income as follows:

- Free parking after 6 p.m. - £20,000;
- Free all day Saturday - £150,000;
- Free parking for Blue Badge holders – not known;
- Free parking two Saturdays after Christmas - £4,000.

- 5.2 Changes to the arrangements also require amendments to the off street parking order, plus new signs, etc. It is estimated that changing the car parking order, signs, etc. is likely to cost about £10,000.

- 5.3 As indicated in the report, the likely reduced income from not charging Blue Badge holders is not known.

## **6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A new off street parking order will be required for permanent changes to the car park tariff.

- 6.2 Any changes to the fees and charges applied by the Council are usually considered through the preparation of the budget to enable the implications of any changes to be properly assessed.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to note the contents of the report and determine whether any items should be put forward for consideration during the preparation of the 2016/17 budget.



Shaun Scrutton

Director

**Background Papers:-**

None.

For further information please contact Shaun Scrutton on:-

Phone: 01702 318100

Email: [shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk)

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