

APPENDIX G

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 25 MAY 2010

Title:

**THE WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

This report is to advise Members of the latest position on the implementation of Bank Holiday charging in car parks, to summarise the two objections received to the proposed changes and to obtain approval to proceed with the adoption of the Waverley Off Street Parking Order 2010 on the basis set out below.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The proposals contained within this report contribute towards the Council's Value for Money priority, with a particular focus on contributing towards the Council's target of achieving a balanced and sustainable budget by April 2011.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

The proposed changes to the car parks charging policy were expected to generate an additional £60,000 during the financial year 2010/11. £30,000 of this was expected to come from Bank Holiday charging, with the remainder from other minor changes to charging policy. The basis for this calculation was that charging would take place across all Bank Holidays in 2010/11.

The fact that it was deemed necessary to make a new Parking Order, combined with the fact that objections have been received and now need to be considered, means that it has not been possible to charge for the Good Friday, Easter Monday or the Early May Bank Holiday. It is anticipated that this will result in an estimated drop in income of approximately £15,000 for 2010/11.

Legal Implications:

Procedures for the making of Parking Orders are prescribed in statutory instruments, and there is a statutory requirement for authorities to formally consider any objections.

Background

1. As part of the 2010/11 budget setting process, it was agreed that charging would be introduced for parking in the Council's pay and display car parks on Bank Holidays.
2. This change was felt to be justified on the basis that, in many cases, Bank Holidays could now be considered normal working and shopping days, and it was felt that charging should therefore reflect this fact. This change is anticipated to bring in an additional £30,000 per annum in parking charges.
3. In order to bring about this change, it was necessary to make a new Parking Order, as the changes required were deemed by the Council's Legal team to be too large to be considered a minor amendment.
4. A second change, which was considered a minor amendment and therefore took effect from 1 April 2010, relates to increases to parking charges in selected car parks and is designed not only to increase revenue, but also as a mechanism for managing demand for some of the more popular car parks and to encourage long-stay parking out of key sites which are better suited to short-stay use by shoppers.
5. The Order was duly prepared, and the statutory consultation period for the Order expired on Sunday 2 May 2010.

Consultation feedback

6. Two formal objections to the proposed changes were received during this formal consultation period.
7. The first of these, although mentioning Bank Holidays, related primarily to the general increase in charges, and specifically requested that the proposed increases at Crown Court, Godalming, be reconsidered. However, following an exchange of letters, the individual was left satisfied that her concerns had been noted, and her suggestions (including the possibility of a half-hour charge for selected town-centre car parks) would be considered. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in respect of this objection at this time.
8. The second letter, however, expressed specific concerns about the proposals to introduce Bank Holiday charging, with particular reference to North Street Car Park, Farncombe. The proposal in this car park is to introduce Bank Holiday charging on the same basis as charging at other times which, for 2010/11 is set at: -

- 50p for up to 2 hours
 - £2.50 for over 2 hours
9. The letter, signed by 3 local residents expressed concerns over the proposals and stated that, as the car park is primarily used by commuters during the week, it is largely empty on Bank Holidays and is therefore used by local residents, unable to find on-street parking during these times due to the number of people who are at home. It went on to claim that, as shoppers do not generally use the car park, the argument that a Bank Holiday is now a normal shopping day is not relevant in this case. For these reasons they strongly objected to the proposed charges.

Proposed Response to Consultation Feedback

10. As previously stated, the first objection was primarily concerned with the general uplift in charges at specific Godalming car parks. This was satisfactorily resolved through an exchange of letters and it is therefore proposed that no further action is taken.
11. The second objection refers to a car park at which it is possible to park, for 24 hours at a total cost of £2.50. Therefore, whilst the concerns of local residents (who currently use the car park on Bank Holidays) is understandable, it is not felt that any concession should be made given the relatively low charge involved, and the fact that they could, if they objected to the new charge, find alternative parking elsewhere.

Conclusion

12. Having agreed to implement Bank Holiday charging, it became apparent that such a change would require a new Parking Order to be made.
13. The making of a new Order involves a statutory consultation process, and this process resulted in two objections being made. The nature of the objections is summarised within this report, and it is not felt that either warrant a change in policy.
14. The fact that it was necessary to make a new Order has meant that it has not been possible to implement the new charging regime for the first three Bank Holidays of 2010. This will result in an estimated drop in income for this financial year of approximately £15,000.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. notes the objections received but does not change the proposed approach to charging;

2. instructs Officers to proceed with making the Parking Order as soon as possible; and
3. notes the estimated drop in income of approximately £15,000 for 2010/11 as a result of the delays in implementing the changes.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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