

PETITION ON 2017 PARKING CHARGES

Council 13 July 2017

Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services
Status	For recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 829 valid signatures was received by the Council regarding the levels of the 2017 parking charges.

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered the petition at its meeting on 23 May. This report sets out the next steps as to how the Council will deal with the petition.

Recommendation(s):

That Council refers this petition and the comments and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on to the Cabinet meeting on 27 July.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	If any changes are made to the current parking charges then there will be a reduction in income, also there will be a cost to change the tariff software which is carried out by the machine supplier and our pay by phone provider.
Legal	This matter is dealt with under the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions from the public which is contained within the constitution. If the current charges are changed then the parking orders will need amending.
Corporate	In accordance with the Council's petition scheme if a petition has 650 but not more than 1,000 signatories, it will be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel and thereafter to the next available ordinary Full Council meeting.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only

	aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.								
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it		Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
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	There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.								
	However it is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration had been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.								

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Under the terms of the Council's petitions scheme, petitions with more than 650 but less than 1,000 signatories are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in the first instance. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel must then report on the petition to the next available (ordinary) Full Council meeting.
- 1.2 As Parking is an executive function Council must recommend this report to Cabinet, who will consider the petition and the recommendation from the Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The petition in question was organised by Mr Roy Irving and was validly signed by 829 persons. The petition prayer reads:

<p>"We the undersigned petition the council to We want Thanet District Council to reconsider their increase in parking charges for 2017. Especially in relation to the increase in off street car park charges. Thanet relies on tourism and visitors and the excessive price increases will have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers. The increase for the first hour of parking from £1.60 to £4.00 is not justified and as well as deterring visitors it may also stop people shopping locally where the car parks are in town centers. Thanet needs to encourage tourism and these new charges can only have a negative effect."</p>
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- 2.2 Of the 829 signatories, 651 signatories provided local resident addresses, 51 had non-resident addresses and 127 did not provide their addresses (and therefore Council could not determine whether they were Thanet residents or non-residents). It should be noted however that the Council e-petition scheme does not require petitioners to provide residential addresses.
- 2.3 Mr Irving took the opportunity as petition organiser to present the petition to the Panel and spoke for five minutes in making his presentation.
- 2.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the petition at its meeting on 23 May and made the following recommendation:
- “the Panel recommended that Cabinet revert to the 2016/17 parking charges for the five seasonal car parks and to find the resulting shortfall from adjustments in other service areas.”
- 2.5 A copy of the report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel is attached at Annex 1 to this report and a copy of the minutes with the members notes circulated at the meeting is attached at Annex 2.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Given the subject matter of the petition, Council is required to forward the petition and the accompanying recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to Cabinet for them to consider.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager (7208)
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

Annex 1	Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report – 23 May 2017
Annex 2	Overview and Scrutiny Panel Minutes – 23 May 2017

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer