

PETITION ON 2017 PARKING CHARGES AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Cabinet	27 July 2017
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services
Status	For Decision
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. Members were given a briefing note that highlighted options that the Panel could recommend to Cabinet. These are detailed as an appendix to Annex 2 to the report. However 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."

Cabinet is being asked to consider the Panel recommendations highlighted above Any decision will be reported to the next scheduled Full Council meeting for information.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet can accept, reject or come up with a different set of recommendations.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	Please refer to the Implications as set out in the report at Annex 1
Legal	Please refer to the Implications as set out in the report at Annex 1
Corporate	Please refer to the Implications as set out in the report at Annex 1
Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Please refer to the Implications as set out in the report at Annex 1

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. As parking is an executive function Full Council at its meeting on 13 July could not resolve the issue and forwarded it to this meeting of Cabinet were it and the accompanying recommendation from the Panel could be considered.
- 1.2 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:

"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."

- 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 received advice from officers through a briefing note, which is provided as an appendix to the Panel minutes in Annex 2 to this report.
- 2.5 After considering the matter Members made the following recommendation that:

"The Panel recommend 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."

2.6 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. After the Panel had reported back to Council on 13 July, Full Council further referred the matter to Cabinet.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 Given the subject matter of the petition, once Cabinet has made a decision on the matter, a report is brought back to Full Council for information.

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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