

## PETITION ON 2017 PARKING CHARGES

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| Council          | <b>07 September 2017</b>   |
| Report Author    | <b>Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer</b>   |
| Portfolio Holder | <b>Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services</b> |
| Status           | <b>For Information</b>   |
| Classification:  | <b>Unrestricted</b>  |
| Key Decision     | <b>No</b>  |
| Ward:            | <b>Thanet Wide</b>   |

### **Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 829 valid signatures was received by the Council regarding the levels of the 2017 parking charges. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting on 27 July.

### **Recommendation(s):**

To note the report.

No further action needs to be taken by the council.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Financial and Value for Money</b>                         | 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.  |
| <b>Legal</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Corporate</b>   | In accordance with the Council's petition scheme if a petition has more than 650 but not less than 1,000 signatories, it will be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel and thereafter to the next available ordinary Full Council meetings. Following a review by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel, Council passed the petition to the next available Cabinet meeting for consideration as the matter related to a Cabinet function. |
| <b>Equalities Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b> | Walking access can be obtained from free parking along the public highway at Palm Bay Avenue at any time. The main access to the lower promenade is available to all users (walkers/vehicles) to the Hodges Gap lower promenade during the day when the concession is open.   |

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|   | Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report. (tick those relevant)✓  |  |
|   | 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.          |  |
| <p>There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.</p> <p>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.</p> |  |  |

| <b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓</b> |   |
|--|---|
| A clean and welcoming Environment                  |   |
| Promoting inward investment and job creation       |   |
| Supporting neighbourhoods                          | ✓ |

| <b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓</b> |   |
|--|---|
| 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, if a petition has more than 650 but less than 1,000 signatories, it will be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel and thereafter to the next available ordinary Full Council meetings. Following a review by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel, Council passed the petition to the next available Cabinet meeting for consideration as the matter related to a Cabinet function.

1.2 This report informs Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting of the 27 July.

## 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 centres. Thanet needs to encourage tourism and these new charges can only have a negative effect."

2.2 Mr Irving presented his petition to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 May, and it was agreed as per the Council's constitution to forward the petition to Cabinet.

2.3.1 Cabinet considered the petition at its meeting on the 27 July during which it was noted that on 18 July, Cabinet introduced a new resident only parking scheme to protect local residents and minimise the impact on local businesses. The meeting was advised that a review of the fees and charges for seasonal car parks in Albion Street, Chandos Square, Broadstairs Harbour, Joss Bay, and Marine Esplanade, had been completed following increases in parking charges for those seasonal car parks from the 1st April 2017.

2.3.2 It was reported that the new scheme would operate in exactly the same way as the current on-street parking peel and seal voucher scheme in that residents of the District only could buy a daily parking voucher or a book of vouchers that would allow them to park in any of the five seasonal car parks all day at a heavily subsidised rate.

2.3.3 The cost of the daily charge for residents will be £2.50 for the entire day instead of the current charge of £12. Also residents will be able to buy a book of 20 vouchers for £40, which further reduces the daily charge to just £2.00 per day. The new peel and seal voucher scheme will be in place from the 31st July 2017.

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| Contact Officer: | Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Reporting to:    | Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer    |

#### Annex List

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| None | N/A |
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#### 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 |