



Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision by individual Cabinet member

Subject Heading:	Car Parking charges in parks and open spaces
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Andrew Curtin / Councillor Robert Benham
CMT Lead:	Cynthia Griffin
Report Author and contact details:	Simon Parkinson, extension 2199
Policy context:	MTFS Savings
Financial summary:	The proposals contained in this report will ensure that Culture and Leisure Services achieves MTFS efficiency savings, already agreed by Cabinet in July 2011
Relevant OSC:	Towns and Communities
Is this a Strategic Decision?	No
If it is a Strategic Decision, when should this matter be reviewed?	
Is it an urgent decision? If so, please refer to the note at the end	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part A

DETAIL OF THE DECISION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The decision is to implement car parking charges in Lodge Farm Park, Cottons Park and Upminster Park, as from July 1st 2012, or as soon as possible thereafter. The charges that will be applied are the same as those affecting the out of Romford Town Centre car parks and will apply at broadly the same times (the exception being Saturday afternoons when the charges will not apply during the relevant sports seasons, other than at the Main Road car park in Lodge Farm park). The charges to be introduced are included as appendix A to this report.

Both of the car parks at Lodge Farm Park and Upminster Park (ie. the car parks either side of the New Windmill / Old Windmill Halls) will be subject to the new charges.

The decision will achieve the already agreed MTFS savings and provide more car parking opportunities for people who genuinely want to use the affected parks.

The decision takes account of the recommendations by Highways Advisory Committee (HAC) agreed at their meeting on 29th March 2012. The Highways Advisory Committee agreed to ask the Lead Member to consider the following proposed charging arrangements:

Cottons Park:

Monday – Friday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Saturday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Lodge Farm Park (Main Road end):

Monday – Friday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Saturday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Lodge Farm Park (Carlton Road end):

Monday – Friday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Saturday (8:00 – 13:00 hours)

Upminster Parks:

Monday – Friday (8:00 – 18:00 hours)

Saturday (8:00 – 13:00 hours)

The HAC resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns and Communities that the proposal to introduce parking charges in Parks car parks be implemented and the effects be monitored.

The above proposed charging arrangements and recommendation have been considered by the Lead Member for Culture, Towns and Communities and the Lead Member for Value. In the light of those considerations the following amendments to the original proposals are now included in this final decision:

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1. The principal of applying free car park use on a Saturday afternoon (from 1pm) is extended to Cottons Park to ensure that sports clubs playing in that park on a Saturday afternoon are treated equitably. The HAC proposed arrangements would result in some sports clubs paying car parking charges on a Saturday afternoon and others not having to, which is considered to be unfair to those who would be paying the charges;
2. The application of the free car park use on a Saturday afternoon would only apply during the relevant sports seasons (to be determined by officers in consultation with the relevant sports clubs);
3. The charges would apply from 8am.

The above 3 points of principal are now contained in final decision on the introduction of car parking charges in parks and open spaces, as set out in this report. These points of principal are affordable as a review of expenditure costs has resulted identified some further savings, which are equivalent to the marginal reduction in income that arises (see financial implications section of this report).

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3, section 3.4, para (a) - to take any steps necessary for the proper management and administration of the portfolio/service.

The Lead Member for Value is authorised to agree to any new charges that are introduced by the Council.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure that genuine park users are given greater access to the car parks considered in this report, in the context of the Council's existing charges for town centre car parks and to make the required MTFs efficiency savings of £20k in the Parks and Open Spaces service as from 2012/13, and a further £25k in 2013/14.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

A number options were put forward by those people and organisations who objected to the introduction of the car parking charges, as set out in appendix 1 to the report considered by Highways Advisory Committee on 29 March 2012 and a subsequent supplementary report which included objections that had not been included in the original HAC report. All of these options were fully considered but have been rejected because they will not achieve the dual aims of encouraging more genuine use of the

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car parks by parks users and achieving the agreed MTFS savings.

Other car parks were considered but ruled out because they were not located in or very close to town centres and they do not suffer from commuter parking (and other parking not related to park use), to the same degree as the three selected parks.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Simon Parkinson

Designation: Head of Culture and Leisure

Signature:

Date:

Part B

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. Officers have given proper Notice of the proposed changes and consultation was carried out in line with statutory requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposals contained in this report will deliver the required MTFs savings of £20k for the Parks and Open Spaces service, as from 1 June 2012 and the further £25k in 2013/14. The savings are reduced in year one as a result of the need to invest in the solar powered ticket machines and associated signage.

The fact that the charges will no longer apply on Saturday afternoons at the majority of the affected parks means that there will be a marginal reduction in the projected income, but this has been offset by a reduction in expenditure costs, following a further review of such costs.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no Human Resource implications associated with this report.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposals included in this report will positively impact on a number of the Protected Groups, particularly older people, people with disabilities and parents / carers with young children; as they will have a greater chance of being able to park their cars in the three parks where charges are due to be introduced.

There may be an impact on people with low incomes, but this is not expected to be significant as the charges are relatively low (20p for the first two hours and will be free on Saturday afternoons at the majority of the parks and all day on Sundays).

Disabled people with "Blue Badges" will be able to park free of charge for the first 3 hours.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Confirmation of decision

I confirm that I have made this executive decision, in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Signed



Name: Councillor Andrew Curtin

Portfolio held: Lead Member for Culture, Towns and Communities

Date:

11/7/12

Signed



Name:

Councillor ~~Robert Benham~~ Michael White

Portfolio held:

Lead ~~Member for Community Empowerment~~ LEADER of CBH

Date:

4/7/12

Lodging this notice

Member Non-Key Decision

This notice should be delivered to the proper officer, currently Ian Buckmaster, Committee Administration & Member Services Manager in the Town Hall. A copy of this notice should be retained by the individual Cabinet member making the decision in question.

Urgency

Where the executive decision recorded in this notice has been made in accordance with the special urgency provisions of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a copy of the written agreement obtained under rule 18 must be attached to all copies of this notice.

For use by Committee Administration

I confirm that this notice was lodged with me on

18 July 2012

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I. Buckmaster', written over a horizontal line.