

Notice of KEY Executive Decision (Special Urgency)

Subject Heading:	Covid easing lockdown – free parking
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet Member for Environment
SLT Lead:	Barry Francis Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Nicolina Cooper, Head of Highways Traffic and Parking nicolina.cooper@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Parking Strategy and Parking Operational Plan
Financial summary:	<i>To help support local businesses in our high streets and town centres, paid for parking fees will be suspended for one month between 12th April – 9th May 2021 inclusive, this will be funded from the Business Rates Reserve</i>
Reason decision is Key	Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	<i>This is a decision pursuant to para 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, made under “special urgency” with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.</i>
Relevant OSC:	Environment
Is it an urgent decision?	Yes
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes, due to Special Urgency

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

Communities making Havering
 Places making Havering
 Opportunities making Havering
 Connections making Havering

[]
 []
 []
 [x]

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. The Council recognises the issues local businesses have faced during Covid and wishes to support their recovery. The High Street has suffered greatly during Covid and therefore we are proposing to suspend paid for parking fees for one month to assist with stimulating the commerce across the borough.
2. It is proposed that the following measures are implemented to support the recovery of the High Street and the residents and businesses of Havering.
3. An offer of free parking for one month from the 12th of April to 9th May 2021 is proposed to help ensure people return to the High Streets to visit local shops and businesses and assist in shortening the recovery period helping businesses recover from a lengthy closure.
4. The Council would provide free parking for all, on and off street paid for parking only, with pay and display machines being covered up to avoid any confusion on where motorists can park for free.
5. Full enforcement for all other contraventions across the borough will continue i.e., permit bays, double yellow lines, single yellow lines, schools, bus stops, footway parking and all moving traffic contraventions.
6. All resident, business and other permits will operate and be enforced as normal, along with visitor's vouchers.
7. Communication will be issued advising that the Council will be providing free parking for one month in all paid for parking areas across the borough, ensuring communications are placed on pay and display machines and car park tariff boards. These communications will advise the motorists of the Council's decision to provide free parking, and the associated dates.
8. This decision authorises the introduction of the following measures:
 - a. the provision of free parking in all Council managed car parks and on street pay and display or cashless service pre payment parking bays commencing on Monday 12th April 2021 ending on Sunday 9th May 2021.
 - b. the suspension of enforcement action against vehicles parked in Council managed car parks and/or on street pay and display or cashless service pre payment parking bays for failure to correctly display or purchase parking time during the free parking period commencing on Monday 12th April 2021 ending on Sunday 9th May 2021.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3, Section 2.5, Functions that may be delegated to an Individual Cabinet Member

(q) To agree minor matters and urgent or routine policy matters

Key Executive Decision

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To help support local businesses in our high streets and town centres recover from lengthy lockdowns, paid for Parking fees will be suspended from the 12th April to 9th May 2021 inclusive.

This is to ensure the high street shops are supported at what is one of the most important times of the year for them. Free parking will also support our residents to shop local, and will hopefully provide a welcome boost to Havering businesses.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To not provide free parking. This was not seen as an option as with business looking to reopen after the easing of the lockdown, the High Streets need the commerce to be stimulated and by providing the free parking areas it is felt this can be achieved.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The Leader of the Council announced the intention to introduce the charge exemption at a meeting of Full Council on March 3rd 2021

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

Name: Nicolina Cooper

Designation: Head of Highways, Traffic and Parking

Signature:  Date: 1st April 2021

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has had to significantly change the way it undertakes business as usual as an urgent and evolving response to impact arising from Covid 19. All authorities throughout the country have had to rapidly adapt the way they manage services including having to prioritise some over others. The Council is mindful of those adjustments including those detailed by London Councils in their guidance dated 22nd March 2020. This paper dealt with how the reprioritisation was to impact the Council's parking arrangements including enforcement.

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984), places a duty on the Council to secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and to provide suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. Parking controls and enforcement are covered under various legislation and guidance including Greater London (Powers) Act 1974, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, London Local Authorities Acts 1996 and 2003. The Council intends to continue with activities where they are a necessity and manage its usual duties but in a more responsive way to deal with the crisis at this present time.

Key Executive Decision

If is anticipated that as a consequence of providing free parking and reducing enforcement activity there would be an impact on the collection of monies which are usually used to maintain the service provision including upkeep of the highways etc. Under s55 RTRA 1984 separate accounts are required to be maintained for each of parking, bus lane and moving traffic contraventions. Any surpluses generated can only be applied to specified purposes including further parking provision, highway improvement and maintenance and public transport support.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Based on offering free parking in all car parks and on street paid for parking, the cost to the council will be £106,000 and will be funded from the Business Rates Reserve account.

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

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

Failing to enforce some parking restrictions, especially disabled bays and junction protections may reduce social inclusion especially for persons with disabilities and key workers whom may be disadvantaged in their ability to be mobile or to park where needed.

An EQHIA has not been carried out as these changes will affect all members of the public including those with disabilities or those with additional needs but assurance is given that Disabled persons will not be disadvantaged.

Key Executive Decision

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Traffic and marking management is a key element in response to Covid, ensuring key workers have access to parking to assist residents and businesses and ensuring emergency services can get through.

With the ease of the lockdown we need to ensure that business can operate and residents are able to park. More vehicles are now using the road network and our statutory duty to keep traffic moving must be adhered to now we see an increase in vehicle movement.

The Council will clean pay and display machine regularly, however the main way to prevent infection would be to wear gloves when using the machines or to use the cashless option via Ringo as an alternative.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Part C – Record of decision

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.

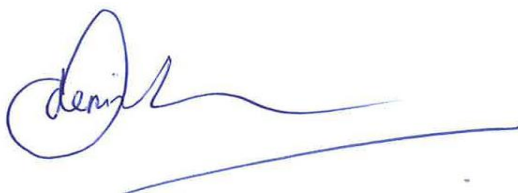
Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker



Signed

Name: Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet Member for Environment

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Committee Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

Key Executive Decision

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____