

Notice of Key Executive Decision

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| Subject Heading: | Parking Charges – Easter & St Georges day 2022 in support of local high streets |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet Member for Environment |
| SLT Lead: | Barry Francis, Director of Neighbourhoods |
| Report Author and contact details: | Jo Green, Parking Manager jo.green@havering.gov.uk |
| Policy context: | Parking Strategy and Parking Operational Plan |
| Financial summary: | Free Easter 2022 Weekend & St George’s day parking with an anticipated pressure of c£0.012m |
| Relevant OSC: | Environment |
| Is this decision exempt from being called-in? | No |

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

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communities making Havering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Places making Havering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Opportunities making Havering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connections making Havering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This decision approves:

1. The provision of free parking in all Council managed car parks for:
 - a) Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Monday 2022 commencing 07:00 hours on Friday 15th April 2022 ending 23:59 hours on Monday 18th April 2022; and
 - b) St George's day 23rd April 2022 between 07:00 hours and 23:59 hours on 23rd April 2022.
2. Where an existing season ticket has been purchased, permitting Saturday parking in Council managed car parks on the free parking days stated in 1 above, that season ticket shall be extended at the point of renewal for a maximum period of two days. Bank Holidays are already accounted for in the cost of Season ticket permits and so no extension in relation to these would be required upon renewal.
3. The suspension of enforcement action against vehicles parked in Council managed car parks for failure to correctly display or purchase parking time on the free parking days stated in 1 above.

*as noted in Appendix B

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3: Responsibility for Functions

2.5 The following Functions may be delegated to individual Cabinet members by the Leader
(q) To agree minor matters and urgent or routine policy matters

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

As the Covid pandemic evolves and Governmental restrictions are removed the Council continues to act in support of Havering's residents and businesses.

The Council recognises the issues local businesses and the boroughs high streets have faced and continue to face during the pandemic and the need for continued support.

The following measures will be implemented to support the decision as noted and will support high streets, businesses, residents and the visitors of Havering.

It is proposed that free parking at Council managed car parks is offered from Friday 15th April to Monday 18th April 2022 inclusive and again on 23rd April 2022 across the borough.

All pay and display machines located within a Council managed car park will be covered during the free parking period.

Signage advising of the free parking offer will be presented at every pay and display machine located within a Council managed car park.

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The offer of free parking during the course of the Easter period will be publicised amongst Havering's residents and businesses.

The RingGo facility (cashless payment facility via phone, app and web) will be managed so as to ensure customers are advised that parking is free and or will not be able to make payment via the phone, app or web facility via RingGo

Based on Easter and St George's 2019 income the cost to the Council to give free parking in Council managed car parks would be circa £11.7k.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

We considered offering short stay free parking but this would be hard to enforce and is impractical operationally.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Analysis undertaken to understand the potential income loss to the Council and pre-decision consultation between members of the Senior Leadership team

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

Name: Jo Green

Designation: Parking Manager

Signature:

Date: 30/09/2021

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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.

It is anticipated that as a consequence of reducing the 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

There is already a significant impact on the revenue ordinarily achieved through the Parking account following the pandemic, it should be noted that this decision will create an additional pressure on the service. It has been agreed that any related loss of income will be funded centrally with the use of the 'Business Rates Reserve fund'.

The financial risk to the Council taking into account car parking fees and potential PCN is an income loss circa of £0.012m, broken down by £0.009m Pay & Display and £0.003m PCN income, (based upon 2019 figures as Easter 2020 saw the continuation of national lockdown and Easter 2021 was during the free four week parking offer).

There are also the additional costs associated with implementing this decision such as signage and any fees requested from associated suppliers which are not yet confirmed but will be absorbed within the parking account.

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

There are no HR implications by this decision as existing resource within the parking service will be utilised so as to meet the requirements.

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:

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- (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.

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 as they will continue to be able to utilise specific parking places as is currently.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Traffic and parking 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 Government restrictions we need to ensure that business can operate and businesses, residents and visitors can utilise parking provision at the weekends.

With charges being made free on the Easter bank holiday weekend this will not only support the local high streets but will assist low income residents in addition to reducing the risk of infection and the need of additional cleansing of the pay and display machines (they will be covered over)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix A - Comparative analysis – Off Street parking income in April 2019 and April 2021

Appendix B – Council managed car parks included in the decision and offering free parking as noted within the decision

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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

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker



Signed

Name: **Councillor Osman Dervish**

Cabinet Portfolio held: **Environment**

Date: **4 November 2021**

Lodging this notice

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

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____