

**CABINET  
16 MARCH 2021**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**ADDENDUM TO AGENDA ITEM 16 - PROPOSED INCREASE IN CAR PARKING TARIFFS  
2021-22**

**UNDER SECTION 5 – CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL  
ORGANISATIONS**

1. At para 5.2, reference is made to providing an update to Cabinet regarding comments received from the mentioned external organisations. These are summarised as follows:

Baldock:

- (i) No objection to the proposed tariff increases have been received from Baldock, representing the local business interests, and no comments have been received from Baldock Area committee.

Hitchin

- (ii) See referral from Hitchin Committee at agenda Item 7d to the Cabinet papers.
- (iii) Hitchin Bid suggest that as a means of trying to support local businesses over the coming months to help the recover from the impacts of the pandemic, the Council should rather look to reduce parking charges from 12 April to encourage visitors back into the town and not further discourage people by increasing charges.

Letchworth:

- (iv) No comments have been received from the Letchworth Area Committee
- (v) No comments have been received from Letchworth Bid

Royston:

- (vi) No comments have been received from RoystonFirst Bid
- (vii) The Royston Town Council have provided a mix of views to the proposed increases – while the majority consider the proposals to be reasonable, and are supportive of retaining the free after 3pm, those that have objected are in response to the impact of the pandemic on local businesses and express concern that the proposed increases may discourage people from coming to the town centre.
- (viii) The chair of Royston Area Committee has advised that the committee will be discussing the tariffs at their meeting on 17 March which follows Cabinet.

## Knebworth

- (ix) The Knebworth Parish Council have made no comment on the proposed tariff increases; however, the Parish Council would like to subsidise the first 30mins tariff band for 2021/22 as free parking to the customer within St Martins Car Park.
  - (x) Although discussed at Southern Rural Committee, no comments were made on the actual proposed tariff increases, other than suggesting that informal consultation and discussion at other meetings or full Council would be sufficient to comment on proposals in foregoing years.
2. Copies of correspondence received has been seen by the Executive Member and Deputy and are available on request.
  3. In light of the comments received regarding alternative methods of payment as mentioned by Hitchin Committee in item 7d, this work is referenced in para 8.3.3 of the main Cabinet report. This would be for on and off street parking including pay on exit in the Council's multistory car parks.
  4. Discussion has taken place with the Executive Member and Deputy regarding the request by Knebworth Parish Council to subsidise the first half hour as free parking in St. Martins Car park to support local businesses in the high street. While the Exec Member and Deputy are minded to support such a request it is the officer view that delegated authority could be given to the be granted to the Service Directors – Regulatory and Resources in consultation with the Executive Members and Deputy for Planning and Transport and for Finance and IT to consider such requests, given that we have received similar requests in the past from the Bid managers, for example offering reduced or free parking in certain car parks leading up to Christmas. The proposed tariffs as set out in Appendix A to the main Cabinet Report would remain unaltered as these would be used as the baseline in negotiating an agreed subsidy based on usage. The agreed subsidised parking fee would be advertised in accordance with the relevant Traffic Regulation Order procedures and it would be for officers to make the necessary arrangements and negotiate any additional fees with the relevant organisation once agreement is sought under delegated power.
  5. It is therefore suggested that under **Section 2 RECOMMENDATIONS** that the following recommendations 2.6 and 2.7 be added as follows:
    - 2.6 *That officers be encouraged to explore and prepare a business case for alternative methods of payment for on and off street parking, including investigation of pay on exit within the council's multistory car parks.*
    - 2.7 *That delegated powers be granted to the Service Directors – Regulatory and Resources in consultation with the Executive Members and Deputy for Planning and Transport and for Finance and IT to consider and agree requests for subsidised parking within the council operated car parks.*

## 6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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