

Information Report for Noting by Community Forum

HITCHIN COMMUNITY FORUM 9 DECEMBER 2025
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PROPOSED PARKING TARIFF INCREASES FOR 2026/27 INITIAL OPTION

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: PLACE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Community Forum of the proposed tariff increases for 2026/27 to be presented to Cabinet in February 2026.
- 1.2 For the Community Forum to provide any views on the initial proposed car parking tariff increases as set out at Appendix A

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's approved Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets an annual budget assumption that the Council would increase parking fees and charges annually by 2%. The last tariff increases were approved by Cabinet in March 2025 and were implemented on 30 June in the 4 towns and 11 July 2025 in Knebworth.
- 2.2 The Executive Member for Place, Cllr Donna Wright, has requested that the Community Forums and key organisations (i.e. the Knebworth Parish Council, the Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston BIDs and the Royston Town Council), are informed and invited to provide any views if they wish on the proposed tariff increases in advance of a report being taken to Cabinet in February 2026 for their decision on the final proposed tariff increases for 2026/27. These changes are part of the Council's efforts to ensure fair and sustainable parking fees across the district.

3.0 TARIFF PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27

- 3.1 The approach adopted by the Council is to be consistent across all car parks and harmonize tariffs where possible within each town whilst respecting their separate identities.
- 3.2 The aim is to set car parking tariffs that support the achievement of modal shift away from private car use in seeking to reduce carbon emissions and supporting more sustainable initiatives as set out in the Council's Climate Change Strategy (2022-2027).
- 3.3 The Executive Member and the Executive Member for Finance have been involved in discussions and considered various options for the selection of the proposed tariff increases for 2025/26. The following rationale has been applied when considering the proposed tariff increases for next financial year:
 - To apply a 2% inflationary increase to all tariffs across all Council operated car parks in Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Knebworth rounded up to the

nearest 10p except for the free 0-2 hour tariff at the Norton Common car parks in Letchworth to facilitate users of the common and being out of centre car parks. This 2% increase is below the general level of inflation, as the Council is conscious of the increase in the cost of living and seeks to support local businesses and visitors to its town centres and to Knebworth where possible.

- To retain the off-peak (after 3pm) incentives in Hitchin, Letchworth, and Royston to support the vitality of the town centers, with a flat rate tariff whereby people can choose to stay for 1,2 or 3 hours.
- 3.4 This means that the 2, 3 and 4hour + tariffs in some car parks across the district will increase by 10p and the 1-hour tariffs and post 3pm flat rate tariffs in Hitchin and Letchworth will remain unaltered. Included in this option is a proposal to increase the flat rate tariff in Royston from 50p to £1.00.
- 3.5 The proposals for Hitchin are shown at **Table 1** in Appendix A attached to this note.
- 3.6 At present, the Royston BID and Royston Town Council (RTC) subsidises the post 3pm 50p tariff as free parking , and we (officers and the Exec Member) are in on-going discussion with Royston BID and RTC regarding this initial proposed 'post 3pm' increase in considering other possible options in Royston car parks which will seek to achieve the Council's overall 2% inflationary increase and the any further subsidy options for 2026/27. This could result in other tariff bands increasing by 10p in the Royston car parks as a means of reducing the proposed 'post 3pm' £1.00 flat rate tariff.
- 3.7 It is also proposed to increase Season Tickets in the long stay car parks in Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston and Business permits in Knebworth car park for 2026/27 by 2%.
- 3.8 These proposals are shown in the Tables 1 – 8 at Appendix A (see copy attached)

4.0 YOUR VIEWS

- 4.1 We are inviting the Community Forums to share their thoughts and submit their views before the Council's Cabinet makes a final decision in February 2026. All views will be summarised in the Officers' report presented to Cabinet. Any views need to be submitted by 9th January 2026.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 5.1 Appendix A - Proposed Parking Tariff Increases for 2026/27 (Initial Option 4 Nov 2025)

CONTACT OFFICERS

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Appendix A: Proposed Parking Tariff Increases for 2026/27
(Initial Option 4 Nov 2025)

NOTE: Proposed Tariff band increases highlighted and shown in ***bold italics***.

TABLE 1: HITCHIN CAR PARKS

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Bancroft (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.40	£1.40
		2	£2.50	£2.60
		3	£3.20	£3.30
		All Day	£5.30	£5.40
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.50	£1.50
		2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50
Biggin Lane (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
		3	£4.30	£4.40
		4	£5.80	£5.90
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
Christchurch (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
		3	£4.30	£4.40
		4	£5.80	£5.90
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
Lairage MSCP (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.40	£1.40
		2	£1.40	£1.40
		3	£2.40	£2.40
		All Day	£4.70	£4.80
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.50	£1.50
		2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Portmill East (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
		3	£4.30	£4.40
		4	£5.80	£5.90
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
Portmill West (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
		3	£4.30	£4.40
		4	£5.80	£5.90
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
St Mary's Square (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
		3	£4.30	£4.40
		4	£5.80	£5.90
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
Woodside (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.40	£1.40
		2	£2.50	£2.60
		3	£3.20	£3.30
		All Day	£5.30	£5.40
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.50	£1.50
		2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50

TABLE 2: LETCHWORTH CAR PARKS

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Hillshott (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.00	£1.00
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£2.60	£2.70
		All Day	£5.10	£5.20
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.10	£1.10
		2	£1.10	£1.10
		3	£1.10	£1.10
LMSCP Short Stay	Standard Tariff	1	£1.00	£1.00
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£2.60	£2.70
		4	£4.70	£4.80
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.10	£1.10
		2	£1.10	£1.10
		3	£1.10	£1.10
		4	£1.10	£1.10
LMSCP Long Stay	Standard Tariff	1	£1.00	£1.00
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£2.60	£2.70
		All Day	£5.10	£5.20
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.10	£1.10
		2	£1.10	£1.10
		3	£1.10	£1.10
Letchworth Town Hall (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£1.40	£1.40
		2	£2.10	£2.10
		3	£3.40	£3.50
		4	£5.10	£5.20
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.50	£1.50
		2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50
		4	£1.50	£1.50

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Norton Common Bowling Club	Standard Tariff	2	£0.00	£0.00
		4	£1.90	£1.90
		Max stay 5	£5.00	£5.10
Norton Common Swimming Pool	Standard Tariff	2	£0.00	£0.00
		4	£1.90	£1.90
		Max stay 5	£5.00	£5.10

TABLE 3: BALDOCK CAR PARK

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
The Twitchell (long stay)	Standard Tariff	3	£1.40	£1.40
		All Day	£1.80	£1.80

TABLE 4: KNEBWORTH CAR PARK

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
St Martin's Road (short stay except business permit holders)	Standard Tariff	30 Mins	£0.50	£0.50
		1	£0.80	£0.80
		2	£1.60	£1.60
		3	£2.20	£2.20
		Max Stay 4	£4.40	£4.50

TABLE 5: ROYSTON CAR PARKS

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Angel Pavement (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£4.00	£4.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00
Civic Centre (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.00	£1.00
		3	£1.30	£1.30
		All Day	£3.60	£3.70
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00
Market Place (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£4.00	£4.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00
Priory Gardens (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£4.00	£4.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00
The Warren (long stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£2.00	£2.00
		All Day	£4.10	£4.20
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00

TABLE 6: ROYSTON ON-STREET PARKING CHARGES

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Market Hill (short stay)	Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
		2	£1.10	£1.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00

TABLE 7: SEASON TICKETS IN LONG STAY CAR PARKS

All Long Stay Car Parks (Hitchin, Letchworth & Royston)	Current Prices 2025/26	Proposed increased Prices 2026/27
1 month	£87.00	£89.00
3 months	£215.00	£219.00
6 months	£399.00	£407.00
12 months	£740.00	£755.00

TABLE 8: BUSINESS PERMITS – ST. MARTINS ROAD CAR PARK

St. Martins Road Car Park, Knebworth	Current Prices 2025/26	Proposed increased Prices 2026/27
Six months	£156.00	£159.00
Twelve months	£260.00	£265.00