

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Off Street Car Park Charges</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	The Executive on Thursday, 29 September 2022
<b>WARD</b>	Non-Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Place and Growth - Steve Moore
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways - Paul Fishwick

**PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)**

To recommend to the executive proposed increases to the off-street, car parking charges.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive:

Agrees to the increases to the parking charges as detailed in Appendix 1

**BACKGROUND**

The Council has not increased off street car parking charges since 2018, unlike many other Local Authorities and although this has primarily been welcomed, the current tariffs have not been subject to inflationary increases in line with the councils' other fees and charges.

The income collected for parking is essential for helping to maintain the Councils roads and footways to ensure they are of high quality and safe for all users. If the fees and charges are not increased, then the Councils ability to continue to maintain the highway to the current standards will be significantly compromised.

Current predictions for 22/23 estimate a loss of income of between £0.6m and £0.8m and although it is hoped that parking usage will increase over time, there is no guarantee as the 'new hybrid ways of working' for many people does not appear to be showing any signs of reverting back to a pre-pandemic position.

This is a significant drop in income and the proposal detailed within this report is primarily to address the shortfall to ensure we can sustain highway services that the residents of the Borough have benefited from over the last few years.

The current fees and charges for parking in the Borough are some of the lowest locally and regionally. Benchmarking information within appendix 1 lists comparable Local Authority data in greater detail.

It should be noted that even with the proposed increases, the Boroughs parking charges will remain at the lower end compared with other Local Authorities current charges.

**Proposal**

To increase the charges for off street parking for the first time in over 4 years as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, to address the current shortfall in income that has resulted from the pandemic.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	(£50k) Costs of around £50k and estimated additional income of £90k	The cost is expected to be covered from the additional income generated	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	(£540k)	N/A	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Year 2 income levels are forecast to be ongoing year on year		

**Other Financial Information**

The numbers included in the table above are best estimates based on current parking trends. However, parking behaviour changed as a result of the pandemic causing the level of income generated from car parking tickets to reduced significantly. If demand for car parking increases, then the level of income in future years will also increase.

It is however important to note that forecast income for 2022/23 is £600k to £800k below budget, therefore the forecast income figures shown in the table above will bring income level back close to pre-covid levels and more in line with budgets but will not generate additional income over and above current car parking income budgets.

**Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation**

Due consideration has been given to the need for those living, working and visiting the borough, those operating businesses and the need to support economic recovery in the borough’s commercial centres as well as increased population, resident development and car ownership/use.

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and an equalities assessment is not required as no change to existing policy or procedures is involved. The report will assist in providing equality of charges across all car parks and exempt valid blue badge holders as disabled spaces will remain free.

***Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

There has been no increase to borough parking charges since 2018. Increasing charges will discourage inappropriate journeys which would contribute to reduction in air pollution and encourage more use of public transport active travel, walking/cycling and promoting health and wellbeing.

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
See Appendix 1 attached.

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## Appendix 1

### Proposals to increase parking charges in Wokingham Town car parks

<b>Proposed Period of operation 24 hours Monday to Sunday (inclusive)</b>	<b>Current charges (8am-6pm Monday to Saturday inclusive)</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 6am to 10pm Monday to Sunday (inclusive) Evening charges 6pm to 10pm 1 hour £1.00 over 1 hour £2.00. Overnight 10pm to 6am Monday to Sunday (inclusive) free vend ticket</b>
Up to 1 hour	80p	£1.30
Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£2.50
Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£4.50
Up to 6 hours	£3.00	£6.50
Over 6hrs (6am to 10pm)	£4.00	£9.00
Extended day Market traders Cockpit Path car park only. Market traders permit also required.	£4.00 £0.00	£6.50 £35.00
Evening charge 6pm to 10pm	£0.00	Up to 1 hour £1.00 Over 1 hour £2.00
Overnight 10pm-6am	£0.00	Free vend ticket required to register vehicle in car park.
Overnight Residents Permits Carnival Hub New Residential Development only. 6pm	£0.00	3 months £75.00 6 Months £150.00 12 Months £300.00

to 8am. New zone(s) to be developed within the Town Centre as part of the Traffic Regulation Order.		
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### Proposals to increase parking charges in car parks outside Wokingham Town

Proposed Period of operation 24 hours Monday to Sunday (inclusive)	Current charges (8am-6pm Monday to Saturday inclusive)	Proposed Charges 6am to 10pm Monday to Sunday (inclusive) Evening charges 6pm to 10pm 1 hour £1.00 over 1 hour £2.00. Overnight 10pm to 6am Monday to Sunday (inclusive) free vend ticket
Up to 30 minutes	50p*	60p*
Up to 1 hour	50p**/80p	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	60p***/£1.20	£2.00
Up to 4 hours	£1.50**/£2.00	£4.00
Up to 6 hours	£3.00	£6.00
Over 6hrs (6am to 10pm)	£4.00	£8.00
Extended day Market traders Headley Road car park only. Market traders permit also required.	£4.00 £0.00	£6.50 £35.00 Annual permit.
Evening charge 6pm to 10pm	£0.00	Up to 1 hour £1.00 Over 1 hour £2.00
Overnight 10pm-6am	£0.00	Free vend ticket required to register vehicle in car park.
Overnight Residents Permits 6pm to 8am. New zone(s) to be developed within Woodley Town Centre as part of the Off-Street Traffic Regulation Order.	£0.00	3 months £75.00 6 Months £150.00 12 Months £300.00

(\* Headley Road Woodley only)

(\*\*Polehampton Close Twyford, School Lane Wargrave)

(\*\*\*Polehampton Close Twyford)

**These proposals are estimated to bring in an additional £540K based on post Covid levels of parking usage. Current parking usage levels are still below pre covid levels but expected to recover further in 2023/24.**

### Season tickets

Under the proposed charges above, season ticket fees will increase as shown in the below table.

Season ticket charges					
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	Overnight 12 Months Residential Permits.6pm to 8am
Current	£82.23	£240.35	£450.34	£900.68	£292*
Proposed (Wokingham Town)	£100.00	£300.00	£600.00	£1,200.00	£300
Proposed (Outside Wokingham Town)	£92.00	£275.00	£550.00	£1100.00	£275

(\*Carnival Hub)

Woodley town centre has no on street limited waiting and therefore the 30 minute stay is retained at Headley Road car park.

Market Traders Permits Annual permits. Whilst these were trialled in Wokingham Town Centre and provided free of charge. With the introduction of additional Market trader permits we can no longer support providing these free of charge. We are required to recover the costs of administering the service of these permits which we have determined a fee of £35.00.

### Time scales for Implementation and costs

A minimum of 12 – 16 weeks to draft and advertise the proposed new parking order.

Design and order new signs for all car parks 12-16 weeks lead time £25- £30,000.

Configure Tariff files 6–8-week lead time £15,500.

Update RingGo configuration 6 weeks lead time Nil costs under new contract.

Advertise new Traffic Order 28 days subject to objections which could lead to IEMD or full council report £6,000 (legal, Traffic Management services and advertising costs).

It is estimated that the earliest implementation date would be Jan 2023

### Benchmarking

The proposed increases and new tariffs have been benchmarked against other local authorities as detailed below. The data demonstrates that even with the increase in charges the Council would still retain some of the lowest charges for parking

Bench Marking					
Location	30 mins	1 hour	2 hours	All day	Overnight

<b>Wokingham (existing charges)</b>	£0.50	£0.80	£1.20	£4.00	Free
Bracknell Forest The Avenue MSCP	£1.60	£1.60	£2.70	£9.00	Open all day
Windsor & Maidenhead Alma Road Windsor	£1.70	£1.70	£3.40	£14.00	
Windsor & Maidenhead. The Broadway Maidenhead	£0.70	£1.40	£2.40	£15.00	
Basingstoke Long Stay car parks	£2.20	£2.20	£2.20	£10.60	£2.20
Surrey Heath Main Square MSCP	£1.80	£1.80	£1.80	£7.00	£2.20
Reading Broad Street	£1.60	£1.60	£4.10	£14.20	£4.10
Waverley BC (Farnham Town)	£1.00	£1.00	£2.10	£14.00	
Andover (Test Valley)	N/A	N/A	£1.00	£5.90	
Reigate (Upper west Street)	N/A	£1.30	£2.20	* £6.20	* Up to 10 hours
Redhill (Gloucester Road	N/A	£1.30	£2.50	* £5.50	* Up to 10 hours
Egham (Runnymede)	N/A	£1.30	£2.50	*£5.50	* Max stay 6 hours
Newbury (Kennet Centre)	N/A	£1.50	£2.70	£12.00	
Petersfield (East Hants)	N/A	£1.00	£1.40	£7.00	8am - 6pm
Godalming (Waverley)	N/A	£1.10	£2.20	*£20.00	* Up to 10 hours 8am to 6pm
Walton (Elmbridge)	N/A	£1.40	£2.80	*£9.50	*9 + hours 8am to 7pm
Fleet (Hampshire) Church Road	£0.20	N/A	£1.00	£7.00	20p 30 mins or £1.00 overnight
<b>Wokingham Town (Proposed charges)</b>	N/A	£1.30	£2.50	£9.00	6pm to 10pm (£1/£2) 10pm to 6am Free Vend (with ticket)

Additional benchmarking covering Overnight, Sundays and Bank Holidays is shown below:

<b>Bench Marking Overnight, Sundays and Bank Holidays</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Overnight</b>	<b>Sundays</b>	<b>B/Holidays</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Wokingham</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Current</b>
<b>Andover</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Free</b>	
<b>Reigate</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>As Sundays</b>	<b>£1.00 up to 2 hours £2.00 up to 4 hours £4.00 over 4 hours</b>
<b>Redhill</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>As Sundays</b>	<b>£1.00 up to 2 hours £2.00 up to 4 hours £4.00 over 4 hours</b>
<b>Egham</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	
<b>Newbury</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	
<b>Petersfield</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	<b>10am to 4pm</b>
<b>Godalming</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	
<b>Walton</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>As Mon – Sat</b>	<b>Free</b>	

<b>Fleet</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	
<b>Wokingham</b>	<b>Free vend</b>	<b>As Mon- Sun</b>	<b>As Mon – Sun</b>	<b>Proposed</b>

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