



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Special Meeting – Call-in

Date:	Monday, 13 March 2017
Time:	3.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Members are reminded that they should also declare whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

- 3. CALL-IN OF LEADER'S DECISION - CAR PARKING CHARGES BUDGET SAVINGS OPTIONS - TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS (Pages 1 - 14)**

Attached to the agenda are:

- Call-in procedure (Page 1)
- Call-in form (Pages 3 - 4)
- Executive Member Decision Form (Pages 5 – 7)
- Car Parking Charges Budget Savings Options Report (Pages 9 - 14)

4. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR (PART 1)

5. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The public may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

RECOMMENDED – That in accordance with section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR (PART 2)

CALL IN PROCEDURE

Chair's opening remarks (5 minutes)

The Chair will open the special Committee meeting convened to consider the Call-In and set out the procedure as follows:

Explanation of the call in by the lead signatory (5 minutes)

The Chair will invite the lead signatory to set out the reasons for the Call-In. Members of the Committee will be invited to ask the lead signatory questions.

Overview and explanation of the decision taken by the relevant Cabinet Member (5 minutes)

The Chair will invite the Cabinet Member to explain the reasons for the decision. Members of the Committee will be invited to ask the Cabinet Member questions.

Evidence from call in witnesses

The Chair will invite the following witnesses to come forward. Witnesses may read out a written statement (not to exceed 5 minutes) if they wish, prior to questions from Members of the Committee. (Running order of witnesses – List of witnesses to be confirmed)

Evidence from decision-taker's witnesses

The Chair will invite the following witnesses to come forward. Witnesses may read out a written statement if they wish (not to exceed 5 minutes), prior to questions from Members of the Committee. (Running order of witnesses – List of witnesses to be confirmed)

Summary of the lead signatory (5 minutes)

The Chair will invite the lead signatory to summarise the key points of evidence given in support of their case.

Summary of the decision-taker (5 minutes)

The Chair will invite the decision-taker to summarise the key points of evidence given in support of the initial decision.

Committee Debate

The Chair will invite comments, observations and discussion from members of the Committee.

Committee Decision

The Committee having considered the evidence and debate may:-

- Refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.
- Refer the matter to the Council. Such a referral should only be made where the Overview and Scrutiny believes that the decision is outside the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget. The procedures set out in those rules must be followed prior to any such referral.
- Uphold the decision - If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees with the initial decision the relevant Senior Officer may implement it without delay.

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Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

CALL-IN

Decision of Leader of the Council – Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution

Date of decision:	Monday 20 th February 2017
Subject:	Car Parking Charges Budget Savings Options – Traffic Regulation Orders

The signatories wish to call-in the following recommendations from the decision:

(2) That car parking tariffs at all council operated car parks, where charges already apply, be increased by 20p.

(3) That car parking charges be introduced in country parks with charges of 50p for 1 hour, £1 for 2 hours and £2 all day in Arrowe Country Park, Royden Country Park, Eastham Country Park and Thurstaston Country Park.

Reasons for Call-in:

We believe that ANY increase in car parking tariffs will have a damaging effect for Wirral's shopping centres and the introduction of car parking charges in our parks will do untold damage to the grassroots football clubs, golfing societies, mental health charities and small businesses associated with them.

We are also concerned that the introduction of car parking charges at Wirral's parks is incompatible with the Council's Public Health responsibilities.

Accordingly, we consider it appropriate that the executive decision be reviewed as insufficient weight has been attached to the specific and broader concerns raised by the public, businesses and other bodies in relation to changes to existing car parking tariffs and the introduction of new car parking charges.

Called in by:

Councillors:

Jeff Green
Tom Anderson
Bruce Berry
Chris Blakeley
Eddie Boulton
David Burgess-Joyce
Wendy Clements

David Elderton
Gerry Ellis
John Hale
Paul Hayes
Andrew Hodson
Kathy Hodson
Ian Lewis
Tracey Pilgrim
Cherry Povall
Lesley Rennie
Les Rowlands
Adam Sykes
Geoffrey Watt
Steve Williams

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR PHIL DAVIES

KEY DECISION: YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

**SUBJECT: CAR PARKING CHARGES BUDGET SAVINGS OPTIONS –
TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Leader of the Council is recommended to:

- i. Note the report and the objections received to the published Traffic Regulation Order consultation.
- ii. Increase car parking tariffs at all council operated car parks, where charges already apply, by 20p
- iii. Introduce car parking charges in country parks with charges of 50p for 1 hour, £1 for 2 hours and £2 all day in Arrowe Country Park, Royden Country Park, Eastham Country Park and Thurstaston Country Park
- iv. Withdraw the published proposals to introduce parking charges at Birkenhead Park, New Brighton and other town/villages centre locations at West Kirby, Hoylake, Heswall, Liscard, Bromborough, Bebington, Irby, Upton and Moreton.
- v. Refer the revised proposals to Council for endorsement, including approval of the budget implications which result.

2. REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

A budget proposal to increase parking tariffs at existing sites and introduce car parking charges at various country park sites to increase income from car parking has been put forward to assist the Council to manage the pressures in a planned way not only to meet the legal requirements for a balanced Budget for 2017/18 but also contribute towards addressing the forecast funding gap

over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 – 2020/21, in order to continue to fund high quality transport services.

The Constitution makes provision for the consideration of objections to TROs through the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel, as appointed by the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The latter Committee would then make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure after consideration of the Panel's findings. In this circumstance, with a high number of objections and the need to resolve the budget implications without delay, the consideration of the objections to the TRO is being undertaken directly by the Leader of the Council.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

Signed: 	Signed: 
Executive Member: Cllr Phil Davies	Chief Officer: Mark Smith
Date: 20/2/17.	Date: 20/2/17.
Also present:	
Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Rob Clifford
Date: 17 February 2017

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

Form Reference: Executive Member Decision Form May 2012 v 1.0

COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES, LEADER	STRONG LEADER DECISION REPORT 20 FEBRUARY 2017 CAR PARKING CHARGES BUDGET SAVINGS OPTIONS – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS
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Councillor Phil Davies said:

“These proposals were put forward in an attempt to help us achieve £45 million in savings without cutting back on the services which people most rely on.

“I have visited businesses all over the borough, and I have been speaking to residents every day and it was clear to me almost immediately that the unintended negative consequences these proposals would bring to local traders and the local economy far outweighed the benefits.

“I am pleased and relieved we have been able to withdraw the original proposals. I’d like to thank every business and resident who took the time to get in touch with us.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report considers objections submitted against the Traffic Regulation Order consulted upon in respect of the following proposed car parking charges budget savings options:

- Option 1: Increase car parking tariffs at all council operated car parks by 50p
- Option 2: Introduce car parking charges in country parks with a suggested flat rate tariff of £4.00 (Arrowe Country Park, Royden Country Park, Eastham Country Park and Thurstaston Country Park)
- Option 3: Introduce car parking charges in New Brighton and other town centre areas. (Forth Perch Rock car park / Marine Promenade, Birkenhead Park and on-street in town centre locations such as West Kirby, Hoylake, Heswall, Liscard, Bromborough, Bebington, Irby, Upton and Moreton).

The report recommends approval of a revised set of proposals taking into account the high levels of objections to the published proposals.

The Wirral Plan 2020 pledge relevant to this report, and to the parking service area, is Pledge Thirteen: Transport and Technology Infrastructure fit for the future, and the

proposal supports the Transport Strategy priority to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

This matter affects all wards within the Borough.

This is a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Leader of the Council is recommended to:

- i. Note the report and the objections received to the published Traffic Regulation Order consultation.
- ii. Increase car parking tariffs at all council operated car parks, where charges already apply, by 20p
- iii. Introduce car parking charges in country parks with charges of 50p for 1 hour, £1 for 2 hours and £2 all day in Arrove Country Park, Royden Country Park, Eastham Country Park and Thurstaston Country Park
- iv. Withdraw the published proposals to introduce parking charges at Birkenhead Park, New Brighton and other town/villages centre locations at West Kirby, Hoylake, Heswall, Liscard, Bromborough, Bebington, Irby, Upton and Moreton.
- v. Refer the revised proposals to Council for endorsement, including approval of the budget implications which result.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 A budget proposal to increase parking tariffs at existing sites and introduce car parking charges at various country park sites to increase income from car parking has been put forward to assist the Council to manage the pressures in a planned way not only to meet the legal requirements for a balanced Budget for 2017/18 but also contribute towards addressing the forecast funding gap over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 – 2020/21, in order to continue to fund high quality transport services.
- 1.2 The Constitution makes provision for the consideration of objections to TROs through the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel, as appointed by the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The latter Committee would then make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure after consideration of the Panel's findings. In this circumstance, with a high number of objections and the need to resolve the budget implications without delay, the consideration of the objections to the TRO is being undertaken directly by the Leader of the Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The published TRO proposals and the revised proposals set out in this report are the options which have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 8 December 2016 Cabinet agreed a report 'Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Budget 2017/18' which outlined proposals for increasing income from car parking charges. The proposals included a 50p increase in tariffs across the borough and proposals to introduce charges at some currently free car parks and parking areas. [Minute 71 refers].
- 3.2 On 24 January 2017 details of the 2017/18 Budget Savings Proposals for Car Parking Charges was presented at the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee. [Minute 50 refers]. It was resolved: *This Committee requests officers to develop a full report which considers the impact on small businesses, traffic and the wider community to enable Councillors to fully scrutinise all aspects of the affects which may occur in an increase or implementation of parking charges.*
- 3.3 In order to implement car parking charges the Council has been undertaking consultation as part of the required Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process.

4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The initial statutory advertising process for the TRO proposals included publication of notices at all sites affected by the proposals and in the press on 18th January 2017 with an objection period from 18th January 2017 to 10th February 2017. All Party Spokespersons and Ward Councillors were informed.
- 4.2 During the formal consultation exercise the following numbers of objections have been received:
- i. 8552 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in the country parks. In addition there are 2389 individual comments from signatories
 - ii. 2472 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in Hoylake
 - iii. 2450 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in Bromborough
 - iv. 3735 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in Moreton
 - v. 4026 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in the Bromborough / Eastham and Eastham Country Park areas
 - vi. 4011 people signed an on-line and paper petition objecting to car parking charges in New Brighton area including Fort Perch Rock car park. In addition there are 1202 individual comments from signatories
 - vii. 3268 people signed a petition objecting to car parking charges in Royden Park
 - viii. Over 700 individual objections (via letter or email) to all of the car parking charges budget proposals.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A separate bid to the Capital Programme has been prepared for £80,000 to pay for the supply and installation of Pay and Display equipment and implementation of a cashless parking system, also known as phone to park.
- 5.2 The revenue implications of the revised proposals are set out in the Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 report to this meeting of Cabinet [Agenda item 6A].

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council follows statutory processes to consult upon and implement this type of proposal.
- 6.2 The management of traffic is a statutory duty for the Council.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

7.1 Existing staff resources would be utilised in the progression and implementation of these proposals.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 Increasing charges at existing locations may result in customers being lost to private car parking operations and a reduction in parking visits.

8.2 Introducing charges at country parks may result in reduced visitor numbers to the country parks affecting the economy of the visitor centres and cafes. The proposals may impact on the numbers of people who join the parks friends and volunteer groups.

8.3 Not implementing these revised proposals at all will require alternative budget savings proposals to offset the budget saving in 2017/18 from income which will not be achieved.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

9.1 As part of the TRO consultation exercise for these proposals Notices were erected at the sites and a public notice was also formally advertised in the local press. In addition consultation was undertaken with Party Spokespersons and Ward Councillors.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached – <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-regeneration-envir>

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Information from the petitioners/objectors has been used in the preparation of this report, and is held by the report author.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2017
Cabinet – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Budget 2017/2018	8 December 2016