

WIRRAL COUNCIL

DELEGATED DECISION BY THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:
COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN

SUBJECT:	PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES AT FORT PERCH ROCK, NEW BRIGHTON
WARD/S AFFECTED:	NEW BRIGHTON
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report recommends that the proposal to introduce car parking charges at Fort Perch Rock Car Park, New Brighton not be implemented.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 A budget proposal for 2015/16 for car parking charges was proposed by the Chief Executive.
- 2.2 This proposal was consulted upon as part of Wirral's Future Council proposal and as a result Cabinet recommended it to Budget Council as part of the 2015/16 budget proposals.
- 2.3 As part of the 2015/16 Budget Proposal, Cabinet and Council also agreed to review car parking charges across the Borough to help support business needs.
- 2.4 In order to implement the parking charge at Fort Perch Rock, the Council has been undertaking consultation as part of the required Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process. Whilst it is not considered that there are any objections or other representations received which would prevent the TRO proposal being implemented, there are objections relating to traffic regulation which would require consideration of the outcomes of the consultation regarding the TRO by the Highways and Transportation Representations Panel.
- 2.5 However, it has recently come to light that the legal agreement which was signed between the Council and Neptune Development as part of the Marine Point Development included a clause which stated that should the Council introduce on-street car parking charges in New Brighton and/or charges for the Fort Perch Rock Car Park, then the other car parks which formed part of the Marine Point Development could also not unreasonably be prevented from introducing car parking charges.

- 2.6 The wider introduction of car parking charges to New Brighton could potentially have an impact on visitors and businesses in the area. Given the outcome and budget decision regarding reducing car parking charges throughout Wirral in order to support businesses, this could potentially have a conflicting impact.
- 2.7 It is therefore proposed that the work to undertake a TRO be halted and that the proposal to introduce car parking charges at Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton, not be implemented.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 To proceed with the proposals could result in impacts which conflict with wider objectives for New Brighton, as described in paragraph 2.6 above.
- 3.2 Not implementing the proposal will require alternative budget savings proposals to offset the £35,000 budget saving over 2015/16 and 2016/17 from income which will not be achieved.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Continuing with the proposal, in line with the approved budget option and advertised TRO.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation on the budget option approved was carried out in 2014 as part of the Future Council proposals for the 2015/16 budget. The consultation and subsequent decisions regarding the budget proposal were made without awareness of the agreement in place as described in paragraph 2.5.
- 5.2 Consultation on the TRO process was carried out during June and July 2015, with a number of objections received. This consultation process is not yet completed, and if the proposal were continued, then the next stage being consideration of a report on the objections received by the Highways and Transportation Representations Panel, who in turn would make a recommendation to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 The cost of non-implementation in 2015/16; comprising £25,000 reduction in income; will be met from within the approved Regeneration and Environment budget, from income for off-street parking which is forecast to be greater than budgeted.
- 7.2 The overall budget saving of £35,000 will be included in the planned budget for 2016/17, from further efficiencies which will be identified during the current year.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There is an impact on equalities, and the original Equalities Impact Assessment for the budget proposal can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/7342>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That the Leader of the Council:

- a. notes the report;
- b. approves the discontinuation of the current TRO consultation process; and
- c. agrees that the approved proposal to introduce car parking charges at Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton not be implemented.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 As described at Paragraph 2.5 above, factors which were not known by Cabinet at the time of the approval of the budget proposal have become known during the TRO consultation process.

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APPENDICES None

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

A copy of the relevant clauses of the legal agreement which was signed between the Council and Neptune Development as part of the Marine Point Development, referred to in Paragraph 2.5 above, is available from the report author.

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date
None	

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee – Car Parking Scrutiny Review	22 September 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee – Future Council Budget Options Scrutiny Review; Report of the Scrutiny Panel	4 November 2014
Cabinet – Car Parking Scrutiny Review	6 November 2014
Cabinet – Future Council 2014; Consultation findings (Chief Executive’s Budget Options)	6 November 2014
Cabinet – Council Budget Consultation Findings	9 December 2014
Cabinet – Revenue Budget 2015/18 and Council Tax Levels 2015/16	10 February 2015
Council – Council Budget	24 February 2015