

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:** Councillor Janette Williamson on behalf of Councillor Julie McManus

**KEY DECISION** Yes

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Community Services

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED:** Community Services

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

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**SUBJECT:** RE-INTRODUCTION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

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### 1. RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 The Cabinet Member is requested to agree that:

- (a) Car parking charges remain suspended until after the first meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in October 2020.
- (b) That the Director of Delivery Services be requested to prepare a report, to be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee of October 2020, collating the available evidence and consultation process outcomes to enable the Committee to fully review this decision.

### 2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

2.1. There were several points raised at the meeting on 30 July relevant to the recommendation including:

- Shops and business on Wirral had suffered as a result of the pandemic
- Recovery was not assured because of the threats from online sales, concerns by people over shopping with masks; social distancing; reduced income
- High streets may need to adapt to changing conditions and people may need to be encouraged back
- An evidence based decision is needed once sufficient research can be undertaken, financial and with trade groups, and effects on different parts of society
- Delaying the reintroduction of charges in country parks encourages use of the parks for exercise
- Loss of income until October is recognised as a factor, which may be anywhere between £300,000 and up to £2m (£2m is a full year effect) and income loss will be dependent on potential usage (£2m is aligned to previous full year income). In terms of estimating income loss, whilst difficult to predict in the current climate, a reduced footfall to town centres of 60%, would equate to a loss of related parking income of £270,000. It was recognised that, as part of the considerations, alternate budget proposals would be required to replace any lost income from car parking.
- Parking enforcement has partially returned for parking on yellow lines and in limited timing zones.

2.2 Following the Call-In by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 6pm, the Committee resolved: That

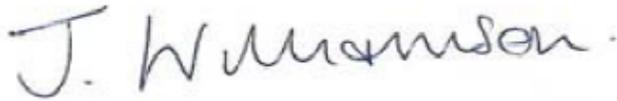
- (1) The decision is to be referred back to Cllr Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance, as decision taker in the absence of Cllr McManus.
- (2) The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the statement made by Cllr Williamson [to the Committee] and agrees that car parking charges remain suspended until October 2020, where the Policy & Resources Committee should be invited to review and consider the position at that time.

### 3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the 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

None

<p><b>Signed:</b></p>  <p><b>Executive Member:</b> Cabinet Member Finance and Resources representing the Cabinet Member Community Services</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 31 July 2020</p> <p><b>Also present:</b></p>	<p><b>Signed:</b> <i>Nicola Butterworth</i></p> <p><b>Chief Officer:</b> Director of Neighbourhood Services</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020</p>
<p><b>Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):</b></p>	

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

Contact Officer: Simon Fox

Date: 31 July 2020

**Date of Publication:** 31 July 2020

**Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:** not subject to Call-In