

## End Suspension of Parking Charges in Camberley Town Centre

### Summary

To review the introduction of parking charges in Camberley town centre.

On 23 June 2020 the Executive resolved that parking charges would be reintroduced in Knoll Road and Main Square car park with the tariff up to 4 hours to remain suspended up until 13 September and that a further review be undertaken before this date.

To review options to extend free parking from 13 September 2020 and for the run up to Christmas 2020.

### Portfolio: Business & Transformation

Date Portfolio Holder consulted: 10 June 2020

Wards Affected: All

### Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) the temporary provision of free parking up to 4 hours charges in Knoll Road and Main Square car parks be lifted on 14 September 2020 and fees and tariffs revert to pre-lockdown charges;
- (ii) Free parking at Knoll Road Car Park introduced pre-lockdown to support the town during the High Street refurbishment works be reintroduced but extended to two hours rather than one until January 2021;
- (iii) parking charges remain suspended in the rural car parks beyond 13 September 2020 but to be reviewed in October 2020;
- (iv) the Executive Head of Business, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, is granted delegated authority to introduce parking reductions and promotions as and when required.

## 1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 Information on car park income from 24 July 2020 is not ready at the time of writing. However, information for the first two weeks of operation will be published prior to the Executive meeting for consideration.
- 1.2 Income from parking daily fees and charges, season ticket sales and enforcement action in Main Square and Knoll Road car parks for FY 2020 /21 is down £446,611 in Qtr 1.

Table showing income for Main Square and Knoll Road car parks

	Actual income	Budget
Fees and Charges	£19	£365,810
Season Tickets	£128,912	£191,588
Enforcement	£1,776	£19,920

- 1.3 The 1 hour free parking provided at Knoll Road car park to support the town centre during the High Street works will also be re-instated.
- 1.4 The proposed tariffs to be reintroduced are shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Government announced a nationwide lockdown on 23 March 2020 which affected the free movement of people and closing all but essential shops. The Government has since relaxed restrictions on businesses allowing non-essential shops to open on 15 June 2020 and other businesses such as hairdressers and public houses to open on 4 July 2020.
- 2.2 Customer numbers in car parks across the borough reduced by 90% and on 26 March 2020 SHBC made the decision to temporarily suspend parking charges in all car parks across the borough.
- 2.3 Car park use is increasing with up to 1,961 vehicles using Main Square car park and up to 150 vehicles using Knoll Road car park. The number of vehicles using Main Square car park has returned to 91% of pre-lockdown levels, whilst Knoll Road car park is only 23% of pre-lockdown levels.
- 2.4 Guildford, Woking and Bracknell Forest re-introduced parking charges on 1 July 2020 and Rushmoor reintroduced parking charges on 20 July 2020. A summary of the actions taken by neighbouring local authorities in relation to charging for parking is shown at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.5 The current free parking for up to 4 hours in Main Sq and Knoll Road car parks ceases on 13 September 2020.
  - 2.5.1 To encourage people to continue to visit Camberley, whilst maintaining a level of income, it is proposed to extend the 1 hour free parking at Knoll Road Car Park to 2 hours free parking until the end of 2020.
- 2.6 The ongoing impact on market forces by the pandemic will require an increasingly reactive response to parking charges, particularly in the lead-up to Christmas. The ability, via delegated authority, to swiftly implement special discounts and offers to encourage visitors in to Camberley on certain days per week would make this possible.

- 2.7 The table below shows the anticipated daily cost to the council for providing free parking over the Christmas period, from Monday 30 November to Thursday 24 December 2020

Table showing the cost of free parking for different lengths of stay in Camberley town centre for the Christmas period.

Free Parking Options	Main Square car park	Knoll Road car park
Free up to 2 hours	£1,776	£189
Free up to 3 hours	£2,160	£246
Free up to 4 hours	£2,338	£299
Free up to 6 hours	£2,467	n/a
Free All Day	£2,626	£476

- 2.8 Advertising the free parking in nearby towns, such as Farnborough, Aldershot, Woking, Fleet and Wokingham, may attract new customers to Camberley and increase footfall at Christmas. There could be a long term effect by showcasing Camberley to new customers which could encourage return visits, even with parking charges.
- 2.9 It must be noted that the income figures are an estimate and are based on 50% of the visitors from the Christmas period in 2019.

### **3. Options**

- 3.1 The Executive has the options to:
- (i) approve the re-introduction of regular parking charges in Camberley town centre from 14 September.
  - (ii) approve the provision of 2 Hours free parking at Knoll Road Car Park from 14 September 2020 until January 2021.
  - (iii) approve the continued suspension of parking charges in the pay and display car parks across the borough as shown in appendix 1.
  - (iv) Grant the Executive Head of Business, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, delegated authority to introduce parking tariff reductions and promotions as and when required.
  - (v) amend the recommendations in this report.
  - (vi) reject the recommendations in this report.

### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Executive:
- (i) approve the suggested reintroduction of charging in Camberley town centre from 14 September 2020

- (ii) approve the provision of 2 Hours free parking at Knoll Road Car Park from 14 September 2020 until January 2021.
- (iii) agree the continued suspension of parking charges in the pay and display car parks across the borough
- (iv) Grant the Executive Head of Business, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, delegated authority to introduce parking tariff reductions and promotions as and when required.

## **Supporting Information**

- 4.2 Car park customer data for the 2 week period starting Friday 24 July 2020 will be published prior to the Executive meeting.

## **5. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities**

- 5.1 Place: Delivering an improved Camberley Town Centre for the benefit of the Borough.

## **6. Policy Framework**

- 6.1 This proposal supports Council Recovery Plan.

## **7. Legal Issues**

- 7.1 A Notice of Variation giving 21 days' notice of the change in tariffs or extension of the free 4 hour parking is to be published in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and be placed in each affected car park.

## **8. Sustainability**

- 8.1 Parking charges need to be re-instated sensitively across the borough starting in Camberley where there is greatest demand for parking.

## **9. Risk Management**

- 9.1 There is a risk of adverse reaction from public users and the Town Centre interests to the re-introduction of charges. However, the re-instatement of 1 hour free parking at Knoll Road Multi-story and the Parking Subsidy Season Ticket will assist in providing low cost parking yet maintain income for the council.

## **10. Community Safety**

- 10.1 There are no community safety issues.

## 11. Equalities

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken and any outcomes from this Assessment will be reported to the meeting.

## 12. Consultation

- 12.1 Information signs will be erected in each multi-storey advising the public that charges will be back in place on the given day and this information will be shared on line and on social media.
- 12.2 Legal notices will be advertised as required, erected in each car park affected and on the council's website informing the public of the proposed new Parking Subsidy Season Ticket.

## 13. PR and Marketing

- 13.1 The Council will be able to widely publicise the parking proposals ahead of 13 September 2020.

## 14. Officer Comments

- 14.1 Fee income from Car Parks is used to maintain those car parks, pay for the ongoing running costs of the service and fund other local sustainable transport projects. Any reduction in fees would in effect reduce the Council's ability to fund that expenditure and mean that all Council Taxpayers are subsidising a non-Statutory service on behalf of car users. Any unfunded expenditure on car parks would then reduce funding for services elsewhere in the Council."

<b>Annexes</b>	Annex 1 – Re-introduction of Parking Charges Annex 2 – Details of the Parking Subsidy Season Ticket
<b>Background Papers</b>	None
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<b>Head of Service</b>	Daniel Harrison - Executive Head of Business

## Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capital		
Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Asset Management		
IT		
<b>Other Issues</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy Framework		
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance		
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Risk Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities Impact Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation		
P R & Marketing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Annex 1: Re-introduction of parking charges

### Main Square multi-storey car park

Category of Charge	Charges
Up to 2 Hours	£1.80
Up to 3 Hours	£2.30
Up to 4 Hours	£3.50
Up to 6 Hours	£5.00
Up to 10 Hours	£7.00
Evenings after 6pm until 8am the following day	£2.00
Sundays or Bank Holidays	£1.50
12 months Season Ticket	£995.00
6 month Season Ticket	£575.00
3 month Season Ticket	£290.00

### Knoll Road multi-storey car park

Category of Charge	Charge
Up to 1 Hour	FREE
Up to 2 Hours	FREE
Up to 3 Hours	£2.00
Up to 4 Hours	£3.00
Up to 6 Hours	£4.00
Up to 10 Hours	£4.00
Sunday and Bank Holidays	£1.50
Evenings after 6pm (Monday to Saturday)	£1.50
12 months Season Ticket	£825.00
6 month Season Ticket	£475.00
3 month Season Ticket	£240.00
12 months Parking Subsidy Season Ticket (£10 per month by direct debit)	£120.00

Pay and Display Car Parks – FREE

Bagshot car park, Chobham car park, Burrell Road car park, Watchetts Road car park and Yorktown car park

## Appendix 2: Actions taken by neighbouring local authorities in relation to charging for parking

Council	Initial Response March 2020	Current Arrangements
Surrey Heath	Free in all car parks	Charges from 24 July 2020 in Camberley multi-storey only, with free parking up to 4 hours.
Mole Valley	Free in all car parks	Charges re-introduced on 6 July 2020
Spelthorne	Charge apply, except for NHS/Social Care/Police	Charge applied throughout, except for NHS/Social Care/Police.
Guildford	Free in all car parks	Charges re-introduced on 1 July 2020. One car park providing free parking for support worker until 31 July 2020.
Elmbridge	Free in all car parks	Free in all car parks until further notice
Runnymede	Charging but no enforcement Hospital advised there staff could park free of charge	Charges re-introduced on 6 July 2020. One car park providing free parking for support workers.
Woking	Free in all car parks	Charges re-introduced on 1 July 2020
Epsom	Mostly Free to all	Charges re-introduced on 15 June 2020. Free parking for NHS staff, care workers and NHS volunteer responders
Rushmoor	Free in all car parks	Charges re-introduced on 20 July 2020
Hart	Free in all car parks	Free in all car parks until 1 Aug 2020
Bracknell Forest	Free in all car parks	Charges re-introduced on 1 July 2020.