

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

24th July 2012

PAY DISPLAY CAR PARKS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Greg Chance, Planning Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Councillor Greg Chance
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental Services
Wards Affected	Various Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	Yes
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Redditch Borough Council currently charges for weekend parking facilities at the Town Hall and Trescott Road via Pay and Display machines. The enforcement of the parking charge is included within the contractual agreement via a letter of agreement between Redditch Borough Council and Wychavon District Council as part of the civil parking enforcement arrangements.
- 1.2 The cost of enforcement for these two car parks is not identified separately but is contained within the general contractual cost.
- 1.3 It has become apparent that the actual income from these two sites has not, and is unlikely to, meet the income targets that were suggested initially by an external consultancy, who were engaged to advise on the provision and charging for car park facilities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council that

- 1) **the Pay and Display scheme in the Town Hall and Trescott Road car parks be discontinued so that weekend parking does not incur a charge and that the Traffic Order be varied accordingly; and**

RESOLVED that

- 2) **the Pay and Display machines be removed and then sold.**

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3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 Since implementation of the Pay and Display machines there have been annual shortfalls to income from that originally anticipated. During 2011/12 the shortfall to assumed income was £11k. These shortfalls would have had to have been met from savings within other Council service budgets. The proposal to remove the machines will ensure that shortfalls no longer have to be offset by other savings.
- 3.2 There will be a cost to disconnect and remove the Pay and Display machines together with any associated services. This is estimated to be in the region of £750 and includes the removal of the signs as well as the ticket machines however the pedestals will be capped off appropriately to reduce the need for further cost . There is also the cost of publication for the variation notice (approx £400).
- 3.3 It is assumed that income can be generated from the sale of the Pay and Display machines. Initial contact has been made with Wychavon District Council to ascertain if they may be interested in purchasing the two ticket machines. The initial response is that they will consider making an offer of £900 per machine excluding the pedestal. It is anticipated that the third machine will also be sold for a similar value.
- 3.4 The saving in 2012/13 will reflect the net position of the income generated from the sale of the machines offset by the cost of the removal and advertising. It is anticipated that this will generate a net saving of £2k.
- 3.5 The current value of the capital charge for the machines is £13k. This cost would have to be met from existing capital receipts and therefore would not have an impact on the revenue account.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 The Executive Committee report dated 22nd July 2009 gave details of the legal obligation of the authority under Section 32 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to make an Order for off road parking. The procedure for making the Order is contained in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 ("the Regulations") and includes details of the necessary consultation and consultees including the publication of the proposal Notice.

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- 3.7 Further to the Recommendation made by the Executive Committee the necessary Order was duly made and the enforcement of that order was achieved via contractual arrangement with Wychavon District Council.
- 3.8 The existing contract, dated 24th March 2009, will continue to operate however Wychavon District Council will have to be advised accordingly so that the current enforcement arrangements cease to be effective from an agreed date and in order that the Civil Enforcement Officers time can be reassigned appropriately.
- 3.9 Consultation has taken place with Legal Services with regard to the legal contract and any implications and, if the Recommendation contained within this report is approved, Legal Services will have to be instructed to ensure that there are no other implications or outstanding obligations with regard to cessation of the Order.
- 3.10 As the car parks were Pay and Display we were obliged to ensure that the car parks were fit for use which included ensuring that they were cleared of snow and gritted during the winter.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.11 The Pay and Display scheme had a total initial capital cost of £18,352.18. There remains £13k on the capital value to be chargeable to the service. As detailed above this cost will be written off against existing capital receipts.
- 3.12 The enforcement of the parking charges was included within, but not separately identified, the contractual agreement with Wychavon District Council to provide civil parking enforcement across the Borough.
- 3.13 The external consultant who advised on a range of parking options projected that the level of annual income from these two car parks would be £22k. The cost of the review of options was £3k. The actual income generated from the car parks has been significantly lower than this assumption as detailed below:

2009/10	£1,753
2010/11	£2,988
2011/12	£1,917

- 3.14 There are also annual costs associated with the general maintenance of the Pay and Display machines and the management of the car parks. These are expected to increase as the machines get older in the future.

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- 3.15 The Council will need to reverse its Decision to charge for weekend parking as per the Executive Committee report dated 22nd July 2009.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.16 The removal of the Pay and Display function will not disadvantage or discriminate against any customers and will not have a detrimental effect on the total amount of weekend parking that is available in the town centre.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The car parks prior to the commencement of the scheme in 2009 were a free facility accessible to all members of the public. The subsequent removal of the Pay and Display scheme will return the sites to their former status and, under the Council's obligations in terms of the occupiers liability, there is no increase in risk to the Authority.

5. APPENDICES

None.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Internal Audit Service Report dated May 2010
Agreement between Redditch Borough Council and Wychavon District Council Executive Committee Report dated 22nd July 2009

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Carl Walker
E Mail: carl.walker@bromsgroveandredditchbc.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext 3421