

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection for Decision 09 February 2023

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Traffic Regulation Order for Revised Coastal Car Park Charges – consideration of consultation responses
Report of:	Head of Environmental Health
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities. Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council.

Purpose:

This report sets out the results of the recent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) engagement exercise for revised charges at coastal car parks. It requests consideration by the Executive Member and a decision on the adoption of an updated Off-Street Parking Order (Amendment 6).

Executive summary:

At the meeting of the Executive on 6 December 2022, it was agreed to:

- Increase the charge for a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket to £145 per annum for non-residents of the Borough of Fareham;
- Introduce a reduced charge of £95 for a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket for residents of the Borough of Fareham;
- Increase charges in the Coastal Car Parks to £1.10 per hour; and
- Remove the 6-hour charging cap in the Coastal Car Parks.

The statutory process to inform the public of these changes took place through the Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order 2023 consultation which ran from 23 December 2022 – 20 January 2023.

If the Amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order is approved, revised signage will be put in place in all nine coastal car parks and pay-and-display machines updated to reflect the revised charges. The Council's MyAccount system will be updated to reflect the revised season ticket charges. The Council's website will be updated to ensure that parking information reflects the amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order.

Changes will come into effect on 1 March 2023.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees the adoption of the updated Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order as attached at Appendix A to the report.

Reason:

To allow the introduction of revised charges in the Council's coastal car parks.

Cost of proposals:

The costs of revised signage and updates to pay-and-display machines will be met within current budgets.

Appendices: **A:** Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order

Background Papers:

Reference Papers: 6 December 2022 Executive Report – Review of parking charges at coastal locations and options identified in September 2020 review

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Executive Member Briefing Paper

Date:	09 February 2023
Subject:	Traffic Regulation Order for Revised Coastal Car Park Charges – consideration of consultation responses
Briefing by:	Head of Environmental Health
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

Introduction

1. This report provides feedback on the results of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) engagement exercise, which ran from 23 December 2022 – 20 January 2023. It seeks approval for the adoption of the Off-Street Parking Order (Amendment 6) to introduce revised charges in nine coastal car parks.

Background

2. Charging was introduced in seven coastal car parks in August 2021, with charging in two Portchester Castle car parks coming into effect in March 2022. A review of the scheme was undertaken in August 2022 following the first full year of operation.
3. Following the review, revised charges in coastal car parks were recommended:
 - a. raising pay-and-display hourly charges in line with inflation (to £1.10 p/hour);
 - b. increasing the cost of annual coastal season tickets to £145, with a concessionary rate of £95 for residents of Fareham Borough; and
 - c. removing the £6 per day cap on charging.
4. The recommended revised charges in coastal car parks were agreed at the Executive meeting on 6 December 2022. As a result of this, the Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order consultation took place and ran between 23 December 2022 and 20 January 2023.
5. The proposed order and details of how to take part were placed on the Council's website. A notice was published in the Hampshire Independent and consultees, including Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association, and various local bus companies were contacted.
6. A hard copy set of documents was made available at the reception of the Civic Offices throughout the engagement period.
7. Public notices were sited in each of the nine car parks affected. Emails were sent to members of the E-panel. Interested organisations including St Mary's Church, local sailing clubs and beach hut owners were contacted.

Consultation Results

8. Overall, 21 responses were received from a range of interested parties including regular car park users, sailing club members and residents. A significant number – though not all - of respondents opposed the proposed changes to charges in coastal car parks.
9. The main themes in the responses to this consultation stem from the introduction of charging in coastal car parks in August 2021, rather than the specific changes being considered as part of the proposed Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order 2023.
10. There were broader objections raised to the cost of parking in town centre car parks, which are not impacted by the proposed Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order 2023 and are therefore out of scope of this consultation.
11. The following main themes emerged from responses:
12. **Impact on car park localities:** A quarter of respondents noted that they have observed an increase in on-street parking because of the introduction of charges in coastal car parks. Parking in Cliff Road, Shore Road, Old Street and Solent Road was identified as being busier than previously.
13. On-street parking is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council who have not raised any specific concerns.
14. One local resident identified that the introduction of parking charges in coastal car parks had had a detrimental effect on local businesses.
15. No responses were received from businesses to support this observation.
16. **Impact on health of residents and visitors:** Four respondents raised concerns over the impact on the quality of life of residents and the mental health benefits of visitors to the coast. Three of the respondents who raised these concerns identified as pensioners who rely on visits to the coast for exercise.
17. One respondent identified that the increase in the cost of season tickets would impact on membership of local sports clubs, particularly for out of Borough members, and that this will have an impact on club activities and volunteers.
18. This concern was raised when season tickets were introduced and identified local clubs can purchase up to ten discounted season tickets per year to support club activities and volunteers.
19. **Season tickets:** Feedback from two respondents suggested that season tickets should be issued per household, rather than by individual car. This was discussed at the Scrutiny Panel on 1 November 2022, and it was agreed that this option would be considered as part of the next full parking review in the Borough 2023/24.
20. Season ticket holders parking in Passage Lane and Hove-To car parks are currently able to stay overnight for up to 14 days. One respondent requested that this be extended to up to 16 days. This will be considered as part of the next full parking review in the Borough 2023/24.
21. **Facilities:** Two respondents raised concerns about the lack of facilities on offer at the car parks to justify the charges and suggested that income from coastal car parks should be used to support improvements.
22. Income from car parking (town centre and coastal) is used by Fareham Borough Council to maintain all Council owned car parks and support enforcement activity across the Borough. The Council does not make a profit from car park charges.

The final proposed Order

23. Appendix A contains the proposed Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order 2023 for approval. The main provisions are outlined below:
- a. Increase the charge for a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket to £145 per annum for non-residents of the Borough of Fareham;
 - b. Introduce a reduced charge of £95 for a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket for residents of the Borough of Fareham;
 - c. Increase charges in the Coastal Car Parks to £1.10 per hour; and
 - d. Remove the 6-hour charging cap in the Coastal Car Parks.

Next Steps

24. If the Amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order is approved, revised signage will be put in place in all nine coastal car parks and pay-and-display machines updated to reflect the revised charges. The Council's MyAccount system will be updated to reflect the revised season ticket charges. The Council's website will be updated to ensure that parking information reflects the amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 6) Order.
25. Changes will come into effect on 1 March 2023.

Conclusion

26. Following public consultation, an updated Off-Street Parking Order has been presented for consideration and approval.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Kat Hillman (01329 824443)