

DIRECTOR USING URGENCY POWERS

22 FEBRUARY 2013

CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2013/2014 – FEES AND CHARGES (PARKING)

Summary

To agree an amended schedule for car parking fees and charges for 2013/2014.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Paragraph 4.1 of the Employee Delegation Scheme enables the Chief Executive and Directors to act on behalf of the Council in cases of urgency only where the urgent matter is of such a nature that it may be against the Council's interest to delay and where it is not practicable to obtain the approval of the Council, subject to consultation with the Leaders of all the groups which comprise at least 1/10th of the membership of the Council (or their nominees), subject to consultation with the Leaders of all the groups which comprise at least 1/10th of the membership of the Council (or their nominees).
- 1.2 Following the decision, the decision taker will provide a full report to the next available Council meeting explaining the decision, the reasons for it and why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency. On this occasion, this matter will be reported to Council on 25 April 2013.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council agreed the Capital and Revenue Budgets 2013/2014 on 21 February 2013 including the following decision in respect of fees and charges:
 - The Council approved, as part of the budget proposals, fees and charges, as recommended by Cabinet and set out in the booklet 'Medway Council - Fees and Charges April 2013' as set out in Appendix 8 to the report.
- 2.2 The fees and charges agreed at Council on 21 February included a schedule of car parking charges for Pay and Display car parks across the borough. Unfortunately, that schedule was incorrect and reflected charges that predated the decision of Council last year to increase parking fees and freeze the resultant fee for 3 years. The budget that was agreed at the Council meeting on 21 February 2012 was understandably predicated upon the fees agreed last year and reference to Appendix 2a in the budget report reveals that there was no allowance for a decrease in fees consistent with the supporting schedule. This would have generated an income loss estimated at some £250,000 and would clearly have been noticeable as a change. The correct schedule of car parking charges is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

- 2.3 Were the decision of Council on 21 February, to agree the schedule of changes presented allowed to stand uncorrected, officers would need to commence preparation for revised Parking Orders and making arrangements to modify the pay and display machines. Additionally the budget as agreed would be optimistic in terms of the parking income to be collected and an overspending would be likely to occur. Clearly both of these consequences are to be avoided if possible and this urgency action will achieve that outcome.
- 2.4 The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture and Chief Finance Officer consulted with the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group (in the absence of the Leader of the Conservative Group) and Leader of the Labour Group in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Employee Delegation Scheme, in terms of the proposal to agree a revised schedule of car parking charges to take effect from 1 April 2013.

3. Decision

- 3.1 That the schedule of car parking charges set out in Appendix 1 to this report be agreed, to replace the car parking charges schedule set out in the fees and charges included in the Capital and Revenue Budgets 2013/2014 report to Council 21 February 2013, using urgency powers as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the Employee Delegation Scheme, to take effect from 1 April 2013.



.....(signed)

Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture
22 February 2013