

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE
20 November 2007

CAR PARKING TARIFFS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Member approval for the revisions to car parking tariffs and tariff policy set out in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Executive reviews car parking tariffs annually in November with any changes coming into effect the following January. Last year, Members agreed a freeze in all car parking charges in light of the scale of works being undertaken to redevelop and improve the City Centre which, it was recognised, could potentially impinge on its attractiveness to shoppers and visitors. In the previous year, Monday to Saturday tariffs were increased by an average of 2.2%. There has been no increase in Sunday parking tariffs since January 2005.
- 2.2 The longstanding advice of the Audit Commission is that decisions on car park tariffs need to take account of the strategic context in which they are applied. For the Council these will include the overall financial needs and objectives of the authority (in particular the delivery of a sustainable balanced budget and low level of Council Tax), the robustness of the City Centre retail economy, and wider environmental and transportation objectives.
- 2.3 Budgeted income from car parks in the current financial year is £5,048,650, excluding rents and other miscellaneous items. Set against this is expenditure of £2,491,360 incurred in operating and developing the parking service. There has been substantial ongoing investment in car parking facilities over recent years, the most recent example being the major refurbishment of Guildhall Car Park which was successfully delivered, with the minimum of disruption to local residents and businesses, on time and on budget. The Council is also one of the most successful authorities in the country in terms of the number of Safer Parking Awards it holds, a testament both to the high standards of maintenance and investment in car parks and our training and management practices.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Over the last two years, increases in parking tariffs have not kept pace with inflation. At the same time, there has continued to be substantial investment in parking facilities, the redevelopment of Princesshay has been successfully completed with the result that the City Centre is now a major attraction for shoppers and visitors, and the Council has begun the process of developing a climate change strategy which calls for an appropriate policy response in a

number of areas. In this context, officers are recommending an increase in tariff levels for 2008 as detailed in Annex 1. In City Centre car parks especially, the proposed tariff increases will impact most on long stay parking and least on short stay shopper parking, which is consistent with the established policy of the Council in supporting the City Centre retail economy, whilst at the same time delivering on wider environmental objectives.

- 3.2 In recommending new tariff levels, the following elements need to be taken into account. To cover inflation over the last two years, tariffs should rise so as to generate a 6% increase in income. It is also recommended that a further 2% be added which would be specifically ringfenced for climate change initiatives. The overall effect of the recommended tariff changes will be to increase car park fee income by approximately 8% in 2008/09, allowing for some customer resistance to the tariff increases.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that Members review the current policy of allowing disabled Blue Badge holders to park without charge in all City Council car parks. This practice is out of step with the policies that apply in most neighbouring authorities and with commercial operators such as NCP, with whom the Council is in effective competition for City Centre parking spaces. Given that NCP currently operate three car parks in the City, this may well have a negative impact on the income the Council receives from its own car parks, since they will obviously become more attractive to those customers who are able to park for free. The level of Blue Badge use in Council car parks is considerable and is now costing the Council an estimated £200,000 a year in potential lost income, which is difficult to justify given the overall pressures on the budget. Against this, it has to be recognised that the Council has a broader set of social objectives which go beyond purely commercial concerns. Officers therefore recommend that from January 2008, charging for Blue Badge holders be introduced at Guildhall and Mary Arches Street car parks only, at the full tariff levels detailed in Annex 1. This will significantly reduce the potential level of income the Council is currently foregoing while retaining free parking for Blue Badge holders in all other Council car parks, which remains a very significant concession.
- 3.4 Members will recall that last year a decision was made to introduce charging at Holman Way car park in Topsham and it was agreed that the impact of this would subsequently be reviewed. In the view of officers, the introduction of charging has successfully achieved what it was designed to do, namely increase 'turnover' in the car park. There are now spaces regularly available for shoppers and visitors, the car park is no longer occupied for extended periods by the same vehicle, the Council is no longer receiving complaints about suspected abandoned vehicles and income from the car park indicates that it is well used. In light of this, it is recommended that the pay and display system at Holman Way remains in place and the tariff be increased in line with the general level of increases being proposed.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the revised tariffs detailed in Annex 1, and the introduction of charges for Blue Badge holders in Guildhall and Mary Arches Street car parks, be implemented with effect from 7 January 2008. An amendment proposing a variation to the Parking Places Order will need to be

advertised for a period of three weeks, and as in previous years it is recommended that authority to consider any objections be delegated to the Director Economy & Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development and Transport.

- 3.6 There is no proposal to increase standard charge costs (the penalty paid by motorists for breaching parking regulations) at this stage. The scheduled introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in May 2008 will bring in a new system of penalty charge notices at a level which will be prescribed by legislation.
- 3.7 As part of the second stage of the strategic signing project, it is intended that new City Centre Plans to help orientate visitors are provided in all car parks. The estimated costs of this are £30,000 which can be funded from the additional revenue generated in 2007/08.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recommended increases in tariffs and charges detailed in Annex 1 will produced estimated car parking income of £5,419,320 in 2008/09.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that:
- (i) Notice of intention be given to make a Parking Places Amendment Order to revise the City of Exeter (off street parking places) Order 1991 to enable the changes proposed in this report to come into effect from 7 January 2008;
 - (ii) Authority to consider any objections be delegated to the Director Economy and Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development and Transport;
 - (iii) Subject to consideration of any objections, the Order be made and sealed.

ROGER COOMBES
HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION AND PARKING SERVICES

JOHN RIGBY
DIRECTOR

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling the report: None.

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
EXISTING (2007) AND PROPOSED (2008) CHARGES – CAR PARKS

Charges apply 7 days a week 8am–6pm (Topsham car parks 9am-5pm)

1.	<u>SHORT STAY PAY & DISPLAY</u>	<i>Length of Stay</i>	<u>Mon – Sat</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
			Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
(a)	Guildhall	} 0-1 hour	£1.40	£1.50	£1.40	£1.50
		} 1-2 hours	£2.00	£2.20	£2.00	£2.20
		} 2-3 hours	£2.70	£2.90	£2.60	£2.80
		} 3-4 hours	£5.10	£5.60	£2.60	£2.80
		} 4-5 hours	£7.00	£7.60	£2.60	£2.80
		} Over 5 hrs	£9.20	£10.00	£2.60	£2.80
(b)	Bampfylde Street † Mary Arches Street Harlequin Centre Broadwalk House Smythen Street * Bartholomew Terrace	} 0-1 hour	£0.90	£1.00	£0.80	£0.90
		} 1-2 hours	£1.70	£1.90	£1.70	£1.90
		} 2-3 hours	£2.70	£2.90	£2.60	£2.80
		} 3-4 hours	£4.60	£5.00	£2.60	£2.80
		} 4-5 hours	£6.20	£6.80	£2.60	£2.80
		} Over 5 hrs	£8.70	£9.50	£2.60	£2.80
(c)	Civic Centre King William St (Dks A-I) ‡ Magdalen Street	} 0-1 hour	£0.70	£0.80	£0.70	£0.80
		} 1-2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	£1.20	£1.30
		} 2-3 hours	£1.90	£2.10	£1.90	£2.10
		} 3-4 hours	£4.00	£4.40	£1.90	£2.10
		} 4-5 hours	£5.50	£6.00	£1.90	£2.10
		} Over 5 hrs	£8.70	£9.50	£1.90	£2.10
(d)	King William Street (Decks J to K after 10am)	} 0-1 hour	£0.70	£0.80	£0.70	£0.80
		} 1-2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	£1.20	£1.30
		} 2-3 hours	£1.90	£2.10	£1.90	£2.10
		} 3-4 hours	£2.10	£2.30	£1.90	£2.10
		} 4-5 hours	£3.00	£3.30	£1.90	£2.10
		} 5-6 hours	£3.50	£3.80	£1.90	£2.10
(e)	Fore Street Heavitree (Max stay 3 hours)	} 0-1 hour	£0.30	£0.30	Free	Free
		} 1-2 hours	£0.60	£0.70	Free	Free
		} 2-3 hours	£0.80	£0.90	Free	Free

† 6pm–11.30pm staffed- £1

‡ Free on Sundays

* Reserved for residents after 6pm

2.	<u>MEDIUM STAY PAY & DISPLAY</u>	<i>Length of Stay</i>	<u>Mon – Sat</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
			Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
(a)	Topsham Quay Charging period 9am-5pm	} 0-1 hour	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
		} 1-2 hours	£0.70	£0.80	£0.60	£0.70
		} 2-3 hours	£0.80	£0.90	£0.60	£0.70
		} 3-4 hours	£1.00	£1.10	£0.60	£0.70
		} Over 4 hrs	£1.50	£1.60	£0.60	£0.70
		(b)	Matthews Hall Topsham Charging period 9am-5pm	} 0-1 hour	£0.60	£0.70
} 1-2 hours	£0.80			£0.90	£1.20	£1.30
} 2-3 hours	£1.20			£1.30	£1.20	£1.30
} 3-4 hours	£3.50			£3.80	£1.20	£1.30
} Over 4 hrs	£5.80			£6.30	£1.20	£1.30
(c)	Holman Way			} Up to 2 hrs	£0.60	£0.70
		} 2-4 hours	£0.80	£0.90	£0.60	£0.70
		} Over 4 hrs	£1.50	£1.60	£0.60	£0.70

(d) Cathedral & Quay	}	0-1 hour	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
		1-2 hours	£0.90	£1.00	£0.90	£1.00
		2-3 hours	£1.50	£1.60	£1.50	£1.60
		3-4 hours	£2.10	£2.30	£1.50	£1.60
		4-5 hours	£3.00	£3.30	£1.50	£1.60
		5-6 hours	£3.60	£3.90	£1.50	£1.60
		Over 6 hrs	£5.00	£5.50	£1.50	£1.60

3. <u>LONG STAY PAY & DISPLAY</u>		<u>Mon – Sat</u>		<u>Sunday</u>		
	<i>Length of Stay</i>	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
(a) Fairpark Triangle Howell Road	}	0-1 hour	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
	}	1-2 hours	£0.90	£1.00	£0.90	£1.00
	}	2-3 hours	£1.40	£1.50	£1.40	£1.50
	}	3-4 hours	£3.00	£3.30	£1.40	£1.50
	}	Over 4 hrs	£5.00	£5.50	£1.40	£1.50
(b) Belmont Road Bystock Terrace	}	Up to 1 hr	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
	}	1-2 hours	£2.50	£2.70	£0.90	£1.00
	}	2-4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	£1.40	£1.50
	}	Over 4 hrs	£5.00	£5.50	£1.40	£1.50
(c) Parr Street	}	Up to 4 hrs	£2.50	£2.70	Free	Free
	}	Over 4 hrs	£5.00	£5.50	Free	Free
(d) Richmond Road Residents' use only after 6pm	}	Up to 1 hr	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
	}	1-2 hours	£2.50	£2.70	£0.90	£1.00
	}	2-4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	£1.40	£1.50
	}	Over 4 hrs	£5.00	£5.50	£1.40	£1.50
(e) Okehampton Street	}	Up to 1 hr	£0.60	£0.70	£0.60	£0.70
	}	1-2 hours	£0.90	£1.00	£0.90	£1.00
	}	2-4 hours	£1.40	£1.50	£1.40	£1.50
	}	Over 4 hrs	£2.20	£2.40	£1.40	£1.50
(f) Haven Banks Coaches	}	Up to 4 hrs	£0.80	£0.90	£0.80	£0.90
	}	Over 4 hrs	£1.30	£1.40	£1.30	£1.40
	}	Any period	£2.50	£2.70	£2.50	£2.70

4. SEASON TICKETS

	Existing	Proposed
Quarterly season tickets for commuter car parks	£210.00	£230.00
Special Annual Residents Parking permits	£100.00	£110.00
Bartholomew Terrace Annual Business Parking permits	£160.00	£180.00
Cathedral & Quay Annual Business Parking permits	£450.00	£500.00

5. STANDARD CHARGE

	Existing	Proposed
Charge for non-compliance with car park regulations	£40.00	£40.00
Reduced sum if paid within 5 working days	£20.00	£20.00

6. STAFFED EVENING PARKING

	Existing	Proposed
Mary Arches Street - between 6pm and 11:30pm	£1.00	£1.00

7. CLARENCE HOTEL

	Existing	Proposed
24 hour parking permits for use by hotel guests	£6.00	£7.00