

Low emission vehicle car parking charge concession

Environment Committee, item 10

Committee: Environment

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Title: Car Parking Concession for Low Emission Vehicles

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Agenda Item

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Item for decision

Summary

This report proposes a pilot car parking fee concession for the drivers of very low emission vehicles using the Swan Meadow Car Park in Saffron Walden.

Recommendations

That a concession equal to a doubling of the time purchased by the drivers of very low emission vehicles using the Swan Meadow Car Park be introduced as a pilot scheme for a trial period until there is a general review of car parking tariffs in 2011.

Background Papers

Air Quality Action Plan 2009

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Users of Saffron Walden Car Parks
Community Safety	No
Equalities	No
Finance	Potential to Reduce Car Parking Revenues
Human Rights	No
Legal implications	No
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden
Workforce/Workplace	No

Situation

- 1 The Environment Committee at its meeting on the 7 September 2009 approved the Air Quality Action Plan designed to reduce the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the three Air Quality Management Areas in Saffron Walden. The plan included a commitment to consider a scheme to introduce a car parking concession for very low emission vehicles.
- 2 The main concern is air quality in the Saffron Walden area and the Swan Meadow car park has sufficient spare capacity to permit a limited extension of

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the period of parking for very low emission vehicles without displacing other users of the car park. If the proposed pilot scheme is successful in increasing the use of very low emission vehicles it could be extended to other Council run car parks and it is suggested that a one year trail should be sufficient to gauge the success of the scheme until there is a general review of car parking tariffs in 2011.

- 3 It is suggested that the owners of very low emission vehicles, defined as those which fall into bands A, B or C for the purposes of Vehicle Excise Duty, (less than 120 CO₂ g/km and currently paying £30 per year or less), apply to the Council for a certificate to display in their windscreen which confirms that they are eligible for a concession when parking at the Swan Meadow car park. The concession will equate to a doubling of the time period they have purchased when parking, for example when purchasing a one hour parking ticket they will be able to park for two hours.
- 4 The financial impact of this concession is difficult to predict but a recent survey of the car park showed very few eligible vehicles and sufficient car parking spaces at the Swan Meadow car park to prevent the concessionary vehicles displacing other fee paying drivers. A similar scheme at a car park in Colchester has a 6% take up (2008/09) and if it is assumed that 6% of those parking for 2 hours now only pay for 1 hour the loss in revenue, based on 2009/10 figures, would be £821.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That it adversely impacts on car parking revenue	Low	A positive incentive to drive a low emission car	Other measures in the Action Plan