

Committee Date / Reference	North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Parking Committee		2011/JPC/N
	20 October 2011		01/06
Report Title	Pricing of Elements Report 2011		
Report Subject	Setting the scale of fees and charges for on-street items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Permits; Pay and Display • Parking Suspensions, Dispensations and other associated charges • Temporary no-waiting cones and associated Orders 		
Reason Decision sought and being	Agree fees and charges for on-street parking 2011/12 For good financial control and to maintain parity with the Business Plan		
Type of Report	Parking Financial		
Report Author/ Job Title	Report by Richard Walker Parking Partnership Group Manager		
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Other Referenced Papers	none		

Fees and Charges for the Parking Partnership

Introduction

Fees and charges for on-street operations provide a quarter of the Partnership's on-street income, the rest coming from issued Penalty Charge Notices (PCN).

When the Partnership started, it inherited a wide variety of different pricing structures for on-street parking. The Partnership's Business Case was based on a plan to bring the account out of deficit within two years, including harmonising and simplifying the pricing structures.

This item was brought to the Committee's attention at the last meeting so that members could debate the issues locally if required, prior to this meeting where budgetary decisions need to be made.

In order to meet the aims of the Business Case, it is recommended that fees change over the course of coming years in order to harmonise the way charging is carried out and schemes are administered. The outcome of this should feed into future Business Plans.

The different charges currently in operation were presented in an Appendix as a table at the last meeting. There is a wide variation in prices, and even differences in terms and conditions, which is especially evident in the variety of Resident Parking schemes.

Resident Permits

Resident permits differ in the number allowed to be purchased and in the price charged for permits. Some allow for a second, third and so on, some at a premium – and others have an incremental pricing structure, and in some places a limit is set.

It is recommended that harmonisation be brought about through incremental increases, phased over the coming years to ensure fairness and ease of transition.

Resident Visitor Permits

These again differ in the style and number allowed. Some areas are annual, some are by the pack, and some are sold by the day or by a fixed duration.

Pay and Display parking

There are only two areas presently in Epping and Saffron Walden. Prices for pay and display need to be set in co-ordination with off-street charges for the area (it is more desirable in policy terms to promote off-street parking facilities). A premium of at least 5% to the nearest 10p is recommended.

Other issues

It is recommended that Temporary No Waiting Cones and any Notices or Orders should be provided at a cost which fully covers their supply and production.

Decisions for consideration

At the last meeting Members were asked to consider the prices for future years in time for this meeting. Discussion at the last meeting centred around restructuring prices for coming years, including concessions. It was agreed that the pricing of these elements would be approved at this meeting.

Members are therefore asked to debate and consider the fees and charges shown in the table, and summarised below, and decide what the future pricing structure should be.

Members are asked to debate and decide the following:

For Resident Parking

- whether to aim for a limit of two permits per household by reducing over time the numbers of permits issued, and the level of pricing; and
- whether instead to standardise on an increased price of second and third (etc.) permits in bands, and/or to introduce this as an intermediate measure.
- whether to harmonise the Resident Parking visitor permit price; and
- at what level and basis, including Replacement, Lost and Stolen permits;
- how to converge the pricing and conditions over coming years; and
- whether to review these annually.

For other permits

- whether to increase the price of Dispensations, Suspensions and Waiver permits, and at what level;
- whether to allow concessionary permits, to whom, and at what level;
- how to converge the pricing and conditions over coming years; and
- whether to review these annually

For pay and display

- to consider increasing the level of pay and display charges, in co-ordination with local car park prices;
- at what premium over off-street parking; and
- in-principle, whether to extend charging to other areas where required by local conditions and the Business Case.

For other charges

- to consider providing other items for a fee which covers their whole cost; and
- whether charitable organisations should be considered differently.