

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**Westbury Area Board****Thursday 22 April 2010**

Car parking charges in Westbury**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Area Board on the background to Wiltshire Council's decision to harmonise car parking charges across the county.
2. To update on the latest developments in the bid to secure one hour free parking in Westbury.

Background

Wiltshire Council is looking at actions to increase equity across the car parks inherited from the district councils and address the shortfall in the funding of bus services using the surplus from parking revenue, prior to the outcome of our consultants review of parking policy for Wiltshire currently underway.

There is considerable expenditure associated with the operation and maintenance of the car parks including Non Domestic Rates, maintenance of equipment and staffing costs. The sums paid by the town councils to secure free parking for two hours in specified car parks does not cover the operational and maintenance costs nor compensate for the potential loss of income.

As a result of this, council officers initially advised Westbury Town Council that to continue with the two hour parking concession in the town it would need to raise the contribution from £8,300 to £80,000 per annum. At the request of the town council information was given on the level of contribution that would be required to keep the first hour of parking free in Westbury. The figure of £30,800 was given.

The town council has also been advised that Cabinet has agreed that there will be an increase in car parking charges in 2010/11, although the charge for the first hour will not be subject to any increase. The charge for the second hour is likely to increase from 80p to £1.

Initially, Westbury Town Council had agreed to reluctantly support one hour free parking and for the town council to make a contribution to Wiltshire Council of £30,800 in 2010/11. The town council made an application for a grant to the Westbury Community Area Board for funding of £7,500 to help pay the increased subsidy for 2010/11.

However following recent meetings and discussions between Wiltshire Council and Westbury Town Council, a solution was reached for 2010/11 with the town council agreeing to pay £16,600 for one hour free parking in Westbury. Hence the town council has now withdrawn its application for grant funding from the area board.

A full consultation into the future harmonisation of county wide parking charges will start later this year and will be presented at the area board in due course.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

N/A

Financial Implications

See above.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

Recommendation

To note report