

## **Portfolio Holder - Transport and Highways**

### **Proposed decision to be taken on 24 April 2012**

## **Proposed Changes to On-Street Parking Charges in Leamington Spa**

### **Recommendation**

That a linear charge of 50p per half an hour, as described in paragraph 2.2 of the report, be introduced in Leamington Spa for parking on streets where parking charges apply.

#### **1.0 Key Issues**

- 1.1 Leamington Chamber of Trade have expressed concern that parking charges may be having a detrimental impact on the vitality of Leamington town centre.
- 1.2 In light of these concerns Warwick District Council have requested that the charges for on and off street short stay parking be unified to provide a simpler and more understandable parking offer in Leamington town centre. It is hoped that this will encourage more patronage of the town centre.
- 1.3 To date it has been the aim that on street parking charges be kept more expensive than off street charges to encourage drivers to use off street car parks. However, in light in the request from Warwick District Council this report recommends a linear charging structure for on street parking that would be the same as off street car parks in the town centre.

#### **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 The current on street parking charges in Leamington were introduced in early 2011. The existing (and former) charges are; half an hour 40p (20p), one hour £1.20 (£1) and two hours £2.40 (£2).
- 2.2 It is proposed that a linear charging structure be introduced on and off street at the level of 50p per half an hour in the town centre. That will mean charges of 50p for half an hour, £1 for one hour and £2 for two hours. A linear charging structure will result in people being credited with time to the value they have paid e.g. a payment of 60p would give 36 minutes and £1.50 would buy 90 minutes. This proposed charging structure will therefore give more choice and mean that people are credited for the time they pay for if they don't have exact change. It is proposed that the minimum charged for period remain at half an hour giving a minimum charge be 50p.

2.3 It is likely that the changes proposed will lead to a net reduction in income from on street parking in Leamington. However, it is difficult to predict exactly how total income might be affected because the reduced charges are likely to lead to higher use of on street parking. Any likely net reduction in income can be absorbed within existing budgets.

### **3.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps**

3.1 It is proposed that the changes to on street charges be introduced at the same time as Warwick District Council introduce their new charges in off street car parks in June 2012.

### **Background Papers**

None

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