

PETITION REQUESTING THE REVERSAL OF THE ABOLITION OF 30 MINUTES FREE CAR PARKING FOR NON-RESIDENTS

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact(s)	Roy Clark, Place Directorate
Papers with report	None

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted by the Hayes Town Business Forum requesting a reversal of the Council's decision to remove the 30 minutes free car parking for non-residents.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports the ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents. This report supports the commitment to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All wards

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services:

- 1. Meets with petitioners and listens to their request to reverse the decision to abolish the free 30 minutes parking scheme for non-residents;**
- 2. Notes that the decision to amend the parking fees and charges was approved by Full Council on 24 February 2022; and**

3. Subject to the outcome of the above, decides whether to instruct officers to add the request to reverse the Council's decision to abolish the 30 minutes free parking for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders to Cabinet for further consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

The Petition Hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners regarding their concerns and suggestions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A petition with 1,121 signatures has been submitted to the Council from the Hayes Town Business Forum and what appears to be residents from various locations across the borough under the following heading:

"Petition against abolition of 30 minutes free parking for non-residents

We the undersigned deplore the decision of Hillingdon Council to abolish the 30 minutes free parking for non-residents.

The 'Stop and shop' initiative was introduced by the Council as part of a plan to help tackle the decline of the Borough's town centres. It has encouraged Borough residents and non-residents alike to make more use of the local shops and services and has been copied by other Councils. Its abolition for non-residents:

- *Gives the clear impress that they are no longer welcome.*
- *Was made without prior notice or consultation*
- *Comes when businesses are still recovering trade lost during the pandemic and are now facing high inflation and a possible economic recession.*

We call on the Council to reverse this decision as a matter of urgency"

2. The Council regularly reviews the fees and charges it makes for providing services and at its meeting on 16 December 2021, Cabinet considered a report in relation to the Council's Budget – Medium Term Financial Forecast 2022/23 – 2026/27. The report detailed proposed amendments to the fees and charges levied by the Council, including changes to the parking charges across the borough. The proposed amendments to the parking charges included the removal of the 30 minutes free parking period for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders.
3. Whilst the proposed amendments included the removal of the 30 minutes parking for non-



HillingdonFirst cardholders, no changes were proposed to the free 30 minutes parking period for residents that used their HillingdonFirst card.

4. The proposed amendments were approved by Cabinet and the draft budget proposals were released for consultation to Select Committees and other stakeholders.
5. Following the consultation period, the proposed Fees and Charges were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 24 February 2022.
6. Arrangements were then made to amend the software on the parking payment machines, and to undertake the legal process to vary the parking charges, and the new parking charges were introduced on 20 June 2022.
7. The Cabinet Member will be aware that only Cabinet have the power to vary fees and charges levied by the Council and, in view of the suggestion to reverse the Council's decision to abolish the 30 minutes free parking for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their request and if appropriate decides whether to instruct officers to add the request to reverse the Council's decision to Cabinet for them to consider further.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However, if the Council was to consider reversing the decision to abolish the 30 minutes free parking for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders, officers would need to undertake a detailed assessment of the financial consequences and the resulting impact on the 2023/24 MTFF.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners request.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs that there are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Further legal advice will be given as necessary, should the Cabinet Member instruct officers to take any further action in connection with this petition.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

NIL.