

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

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

HEADLINES

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| Summary | To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted from the Joel Street, Northwood Hills businesses and customers 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. |
| Select Committee | Residents' Services Select Committee |
| Relevant Ward(s) | Northwood Hills (though proposals affect 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 23 February 2023; 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 499 signatories (415 borough residents / 84 non-Borough) has been submitted to the Council from the businesses of Joel Street, Northwood Hills and residents from across the borough and beyond under the following heading:

"Petition – to the Leader of Hillingdon Council, Councillor Ian Edwards.

We the undersigned – call on Hillingdon Council to urgently reinstate the 30 minutes of free parking on Joel Street. The abolition of the free parking is having a severe negative impact on small businesses in particular, who are losing passing clients at a time severe economic recession".

Further information is provided in the covering letter which states:

"Joel Street is located by Harrow and Watford Councils. The current system is only allowed to get the free parking for the residents who carries their residential card. Due to the new restrictions Joel Street business have lost many of their other area customers".

- 2) The Cabinet Member responsible for parking is Councillor Eddie Lavery who will consider the petition on behalf of the Leader of the Council. The Cabinet Member last considered a petition on the same matter, at a petition hearing in January 2023.
- 3) By way of background, the Council regularly reviews the fees and charges it makes for providing services. Back in December 2021, the Council's Cabinet considered a report in relation to the Council's draft budget for the 2022/23 financial year which included the proposal to remove the 30 minutes free parking period for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders. This proposal formed part of the wider consultation on the Council's budget, which was ultimately approved by the Full Council in February 2022.
- 4) 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. The charges have remained in place, as part of the budget approval process for the 2023/24 financial year.

- 5) Whilst the Council has decided to remove the 30 minutes parking for non-HillingdonFirst cardholders, no changes have been made to the free 30 minutes parking period for Hillingdon residents that use their HillingdonFirst card.
- 6) For 2023/24, the cost for non-Hillingdon cardholders for the first 30 minutes is between 80p and £1 depending on the location.
- 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 as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.

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 proposed 2024/25 budget.

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.