1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The Cabinet received a report on the Parking Strategy on 27 April and passed resolutions. Five district councillors then exercised their Constitutional and legal ability to “call-in” the Cabinet decisions. Extraordinary meetings of the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet have now been arranged to resolve the call-in.

2.0 Recommendation to the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee

2.1 That the Committee consider the Cabinet decision on the Parking Strategy (27 April 2017) and the councillor call-in (5 May 2017).

2.2 That the Committee consider making recommendations on the Parking Strategy to the Cabinet.

3.0 Recommendation to the Cabinet

3.1 That the Cabinet consider any recommendations from the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee (15 May 2017) and pass resolutions as necessary.

4.0 Subject of the report

4.1 The Cabinet received a report on the Parking Strategy on 27 April 2017 (attached). The minutes and resolutions are as follows:

“Councillor Butler presented a report to Cabinet setting out options for improving the Council’s parking provision and gave an outline of progress to date in shaping the five-year Parking Strategy. In presenting the proposals, Councillor Butler referred to the ongoing review of the car parking strategy under phase 3 of the project and agreed to include within that review issues raised during the debate around the potential impact of maximum stay periods on local businesses, the provision of concessions for voluntary and charitable organisations and the
viability of implementing a 30-minute free parking concession for shoppers and the associated enforcement implications.

“Councillor Butler set the proposed increased charges in the context of a freeze in recent years on charges across the District, during which time neighbouring authorities had continued to apply increases. The proposals also sought to apply a fair and consistent approach to charging in all the District’s car parks.

“Councillor Butler referred to a representation received from Alton Town Council prior to the meeting, setting out concerns in relation to the potentially detrimental impact of the proposed increased charges on the local business community and on the work currently being done to promote Alton as a destination and generate increased footfall in the High Street. The representation from the Town Council was duly noted by the Cabinet.

“In considering the proposal to introduce maximum stay and return periods as set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 - 2.2.3 of the report, Cabinet noted that this element of the proposal would be subject to a public consultation process and, on that basis, was minded to support the proposal pending the outcome of those consultations.

“RESOLVED that

“(A) Charging Car Parks
(1) pay and display charges are increased as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
(2) Season ticket and permit prices are increased for town centre car parks and reduced for peripheral car parks as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
(3) Season ticket options are streamlined as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

“(B) Non-Charging Car Parks
That the following be implemented subject to public consultations:
(1) Liphook (Midhurst Road and Station Road) – a four-hour maximum stay be introduced with no return within two hours. For those wishing to park for a period longer than four hours, a permit may be purchased (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report);
(2) Liss (Hill Brow) – a four-hour maximum stay be introduced with no return within two hours. For those wishing to park for a period longer than four hours, a permit may be purchased (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report); and
(3) Liss (village Centre) – a four-hour maximum stay be introduced with no return within two hours.”

4.2 On 5 May, the Chief Executive received the following message from Councillor Dean Phillips of Alton Eastbrooke ward requesting that the Cabinet decisions be ‘called-in’:

“I am writing on behalf of myself and the following Members,
Charles Louisson - Ropley & Tisted
David Orme - Alton Wooteys
Andrew Joy - Alton Ashdell
Edward Brandt - Alton Westbrooke

“We hereby request, in accordance to the councils constitution, that the decision made in a Formal Cabinet session on 26th April 2017 regarding all elements of
the Parking Strategy Progress Report be called in for scrutiny by the Governance Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

“This is so proper consideration can be given to the report with specific emphasis on potential concessions and to hear representations and to understand the impact of affected communities.”

4.3 The call-in request is valid and so these meetings of the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet have been arranged. The Constitutional provisions dealing with call-in can be found in Standing Order 81.

4.4 According to SO81.6, the Committee should note that if none of the five councillors who called-in the decision attend the Committee meeting, the Committee may determine not to scrutinise the decision.

4.5 If, having considered the Cabinet decision and the call-in, the Committee has concerns about the decision, the Committee may refer it back to the Cabinet for reconsideration. The Committee would need to set out clearly its concerns within its recommendation to the Cabinet. As the original decision was within the authority of the Cabinet and in accordance with the Council’s policy and budget framework, it is correct for the Cabinet to determine any request for reconsideration.

4.6 If the Committee does not refer the matter back to Cabinet, the original decision will come into force immediately.

4.7 If the Cabinet is requested to reconsider its original decision, it should do so before making a final decision, which will come into force immediately.

5.0 Implications

5.1 The Cabinet report (attached) sets out the implications of the original recommendations. The call-in necessitates a delay to the statutory advertising period and the implementation of park charge changes. Every week's further delay will negatively affect the Council’s income by around £8,000 relative to the original decision.

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