

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

21ST OCTOBER 2008

PARKING - REMOVAL OF CONCESSIONARY PASSES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Mrs Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	Michael Bell

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report has been requested detailing car park income for the first 6 months of the year following changes to the charging policies introduced in April 2008

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members note the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At a previous meeting of PMB members discussed the removal of concessionary parking for the over 60's following a paper presented by Mr C Bateman
- 3.2 Officers were asked to produce a report detailing in an understandable format the financial implication of that change.
- 3.3 At appendix 1 of this report is the actual income received within all car parks operated by the District Council for the six months commencing 1st April 2008. The information is provided for 26 weeks for each individual car park with a comparison in percentage terms with the same period last year. In addition the actual numbers of tickets sold is detailed, again with a comparison with the same period last year. The final column is revenue received from Excess charge notices for the same period.
- 3.4 As can be seen from the spreadsheet income has increased compared with last year in the majority of cases. Where income has reduced it tends to be on the smaller car parks with a limited number of spaces.
- 3.5 Officers had predicted an increase in the last budget round based on the changes that were made to the service which included removal of the concessions for the over 60's and a tariff increase. However the increase was predicted to be higher that it has actually been for the past 6 months.

- 3.6 It is very difficult to be precise about the impact that individual changes have made to overall income and therefore very difficult to draw any conclusions from the information provided. However consultation with other Local Authorities through the British Parking Association is suggesting that most Councils are seeing a downturn in income of between 5% and 10% for the first 6 months of the year. It is assumed that this is due primarily to a downturn in the economy.
- 3.7 Officers are currently consulting with the Portfolio Holder for this service and the Portfolio Holder for Finance on how this downturn in the economy is impacting on the Councils overall budget and is considering a wide range of budget bids that will address this problem.
- 3.8 Within that debate all issues will be considered including representation from various groups including that represented by Mr Bateman. All financial issues will be considered by members within the next few months in preparation for producing a balanced budget for the next 3 years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Income raised through parking charges has increased compared with last year but not increased to the level anticipated.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The contents of this report do not impact directly on the objectives of the Council

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no specific risks associated with this report

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report was instigated following concerns expressed by community groups at the approach adopted by the Council to parking charges.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Officers have in the past advised that there was potential for unlawful discrimination on the grounds of age should age discrimination become unlawful in the provision of Goods, Facilities and Services.

The Equalities Bill published in June 2008 states the Governments intention to bring in legislation which will do just that (for the over 18's).

Although we have no clear idea of the timescale, it is thought it would have to be within the lifetime of this Government.

There will be lots of exceptions when different treatment will be justified on the grounds of age, for example health services, housing and even social clubs. But parking is not expected to be one of those exceptions.

It is not thought that anything within the Concessions Policy is against the Equality and Diversity Policy as we have committed ourselves to not discriminating on the grounds of age except where there is an over-riding objective justification for doing so.

The issue of concessionary passes was not based on need, but purely on an age qualification the withdrawal of which complies with the proposed legislation.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific value for money implications due to this report

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues: None
Personnel Implications: None
Governance/Performance Management: None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998: None
Policy: None
Environmental: None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No

Executive Director - Services	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Car Park Income data.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 Previous minutes of PMB meetings

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