

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda Item: **13**

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Meeting:	Employees' Consultative Forum
Date:	Tuesday 8 July 2003
Subject:	Civic Centre Car Parking – Visitors Car Park
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Office:	Interim Director of Environment
Relevant Portfolio Holders:	Portfolio Holder For Finance And Human Resources Portfolio Holders for Environment
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	N/A
Enclosures:	None

1. Summary

1.1. This report outlines the proposals for implementing the Council's Budget decision to introduce charging for the visitors car park, including the timescale for implementation and the consultation procedures.

2. Recommendations

2.1. For information

3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

3.1. N/A

4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

4.1. This report complies with the Council's requirement to consult on the Budget proposals, and amplifies the Budget decision approved by the Council.

5. Relevance to Corporate Priorities

- 5.1. This is part of the 2003/4-budget decision, and also has relevance to the Council's strategic corporate objectives relating to the environment and travel.

6. Background Information

- 6.1. As part of the 2003/04 budget, Council decided that charging should be introduced for the visitors car park on the Civic Centre Site. This forms the first part of an overall review of car parking on the Civic Centre Site, which is due to start shortly and will complete early in 2004.
- 6.2. There are 628 car parking spaces on site of which 175 are in the visitors car park. The site is well served by public transport. Visitors to the Civic Centre often find it very difficult to find a parking space, and there is evidence that a number of spaces are occupied by commuters.
- 6.3. The proposal envisages the installation of a "pay on foot system" similar to that installed in the car park for St Anne's Centres, where a ticket is taken on entry and validated by payment before exit.
- 6.4. The level of charging has not yet been finally decided, but is likely to be incremental, ranging from a minimal charge for short periods up to a sufficient charge for all day parking to deter commuters. The original budget proposal were predicated on 9 months income, and it is now necessary to ensure that decisions are made and orders placed for equipment to ensure that 6 months income will be achieved.
- 6.5. It is proposed that the system should be in operation from 6 October 2003. Cars showing the appropriate Disabled Parking badge will be exempt from charges and the number of parking bays for disabled people will be increased.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. The original proposals were considered by ECF as part of the Budget Options report in January 2003. Since then there has been a number of discussions with senior Branch Officers of Unison.
- 7.2. Unison have also been invited to nominate someone to be part of the project team. It is intended that staff should be informed, via the Harrow Newsletter, of the proposal and invited to comment via the Groupwise system. Any staff proposals for mitigating any adverse impact on staff will be carefully considered alongside the current suggestions of, for instance, opening the Leisure Centre Car Park to staff during normal working hours.

8. Finance Observations

9. Legal Observations

10. Conclusion

The report contains information on the proposed method of introducing the approved budget options for charging for use of the visitors' car park.

11. Background Papers

Cabinet Report on Budget Options 2003-04

ECF Report on Budget Options – January 2003

Council Budget Decision - February 2003

12. Author

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