



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Councillor Andrew Smith
Date:	8 March 2019
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Addendum to 'Annual Review of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and associated HRA charges 2019-20' dated 23 rd January 2019
Wards Affected:	Council Wide
Policy Context	Service Planning Cycle and Budget Strategy Framework set by the Cabinet
Key Decision:	Yes
Financial Summary:	<p>The Cabinet Member decision dated 23rd January recommended an increase for car parking, sheds and garages by 3.3% (RPI as at September 2018) from Monday 1st April 2019, generating an additional £0.032m.</p> <p>In recognition of the transition to enforcement through Traffic Management Orders on Housing Estate land during 19-20, the recommendation is amended to remove the 3.3% increase to car parking charges only, and to maintain these at 18-19 levels.</p> <p>This will result in an overall annual net income loss to the HRA of £10,077 when compared to the 3.3% increase as recommended in the Cabinet Member decision of 23 January 2019.</p>

Report of:

The Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing – Barbara Brownlee

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member decision dated 23rd January recommended an increase for car parking, sheds and garages by 3.3% (RPI as at September 2018) from Monday 1st April 2019, generating an additional £0.032m.
- 1.2 This addendum sets out the context of parking management arrangements on Housing Estate land and recommends that in recognition of the transition to enforcement through Traffic Management Orders on Housing Estate land during 19-20, the 3.3% increase is not applied to car parking charges only, that these are maintained at 18-19 levels.
- 1.3 The effect of this will result in an overall annual net income loss of £10,177 within the HRA compared to the 3.3% increase as recommended in the Cabinet Member decision of 23 January 2019.

2. Recommendations

That in recognition of the transition to enforcement through Traffic Management Orders on Housing Estate land during 19-20, the 3.3% increase recommended to car parking charges only is removed and replaced with the recommendation to maintain these at 18-19 levels.

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 To set the HRA 'other charges' for the financial year 2019-20, the City Council is required to give parking permit holders at least one weeks' notice of any variation to the charge.
- 3.2 The decision is based on recognition of the current context of parking management arrangements on Housing Estate land.

4. Background

- 4.1 In September 2014, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport wrote to all authorities regarding Local Authority car parks, stating that these should be regulated in the same way as public highways (i.e; through Traffic Orders). In summer of 2016, the DVLA ceased to provide vehicle keeper details to authorities operating under contract law, of which Westminster was one. This resulted in a longer and less efficient process for managing unauthorised parking on Housing Estate land.
- 4.2 Following consultation and extensive design and preparatory work, a Cabinet Member decision recommending the implementation of Traffic Orders is scheduled for publication imminently.

- 4.3 This project has taken a considerable time to deliver, and residents have raised concerns in some locations regarding the impact on existing parking arrangements while this process has been underway.
- 4.4 For implementation of the Traffic Orders and all associated activities, the Cabinet Member report will recommend a pragmatic approach which limits disruption to estate residents by effectively preserving existing fees and charges, enforcement hours and disabled criteria.
- 4.5 The recommendation to 'freeze' charges for car parking at 18-19 rates for 19-20 is compatible with the broader strategy for the implementation of Traffic Management Orders on Housing Estate land.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The proposed 'freeze' of car parking charges will result in an overall annual net income loss to the HRA of £10,177 when compared to the 3.3% increase as recommended in the Cabinet Member decision of 23 January 2019.
- 5.2 Car parking charges do not fall under the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 requirements in the same way as social rents. The Council therefore has discretion to amend these charges.

6. Legal Implications

The Legal Implications are contained in the body of the report

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:
Daniel Peattie, Strategic Finance Manager – Growth, Planning and Housing
dpeattie@westminster.gov.uk (0207 641 6260)**

For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Housing Services**

Declaration of Interest

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME: **Councillor Andrew Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing Services**

State nature of interest if any

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(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendations in the report entitled **Addendum to 'Annual Review of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and associated HRA charges 2019-20' dated 23rd January 2019** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed

Councillor Andrew Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing Services

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:

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If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Director of Law, the City Treasurer and, if there are resources implications, the Director of People Services (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.