

## PROFORMA

### REFERRAL OF A KEY DECISION TO THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

For the attention of: Victoria Lower, Democratic Services & Scrutiny  
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Key Decision: **PARKING CHARGES REVIEW JANUARY 2021 No: 5120ETR**

#### Reasons for referral:

- i) The decision is outside of the Policy Framework: Yes
- ii) The decision is inconsistent with the budget
- iii) The decision is inconsistent with another Council Policy: Yes
- iv) Other:

#### ***The decision is outside of the policy framework***

Croydon Council is not allowed to use car parking charges as a fiscal measure. This is widely acknowledged in the paperwork. The timing of this increase argues that this is exactly how the measure is being used:

- It has appeared in two documents about managing emergency funds for the council
- Evidence suggests that car usage is falling in Croydon. So that can't be a justification for introducing the policy now
- While the money will be ringfenced, it seems as if Croydon is now trying to fund a higher proportion of the road maintenance budget from parking charges. This effectively frees up money from elsewhere, or prevents cuts elsewhere. Either way it is using car parking charges as a fiscal measure.

If the council is anticipating additional funds as a result of these measures (and it is), please can it provide evidence as to how it will use these funds to better maintain Croydon's roads. Especially as it is now planning to only maintain roads to "safest minimum levels."

#### ***The decision is inconsistent with another council policy***

The council has stated that one of its corporate priorities is to support and encourage local businesses.

These charges will be bad for local businesses, especially when combined with the corresponding decision to remove free parking bays.

This will especially hit areas that border Bromley (Shirley / Addiscombe / Selsdon / Crystal Palace). Charges are cheaper there. And businesses that are near Caterham (Coulston), where parking is generally free.

In recent years, the council has made parking cheaper on the basis that this is what local businesses need to thrive. What evidence is there that this situation has changed?

**The outcome desired:**

1. To gain reassurance that charges are not being used as a fiscal measure
2. To gain reassurance that this policy does not compromise the council's commitment to local businesses
3. To secure reassurance that this policy has been considered in context with wider changes to parking policy and that the collective impact of all these has been considered by members as a whole

**Information required to assist the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to consider the referral:**

Croydon's analysis of car ownership across the borough.  
Details of Croydon's plans to only maintain roads to the "safest minimum levels"  
Details of any assessments Croydon has made about the impact on business

Signed: Gareth Streeter

Date: 9/12/2020

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Committee