



## **Parking Charges Review Board of the Place Scrutiny Committee**

### **Comments to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment on the Proposals for East Sussex Parking Charges**

**Membership:** Councillors John Barnes, Bob Bowdler (Chair), Godfrey Daniel and Pat Rodohan.

#### **Background**

The Review Board was established by the Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2019 to consider the outcome of the public consultation and comment on the proposals for on-street and parking permit charges in East Sussex. The Board met on 15 January 2020 to examine the proposals and recommendations contained in the report to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at the meeting to be held on 20 January 2020.

#### **Scrutiny Comments to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment**

The Review Board, on behalf of the Place Scrutiny Committee, requests that the Lead Member takes into account the following comments and recommendations when making a decision about the proposals for East Sussex Parking Charges.

#### **Residents Parking Permits**

- The Board recommends that the treatment of hybrid vehicles is clarified in the Parking Permit Charges tables in Appendix 1B of the Lead Member report, as it is currently unclear which charges apply to this category of vehicles. The Board also recommends that the charges for residents permits are rounded to the nearest whole pound or fifty pence for the full year for ease of administration.
- The Board is concerned about the pace of moving to environmentally based charging for residents parking permits using CO<sub>2</sub> vehicle emissions, as people on lower incomes are less likely to have low emission vehicles and therefore the increases would have a higher impact on those with limited means.
- The Board recommends that consideration is given to staging any increase in the first vehicle residents parking permit.

#### **On-Street Parking**

- For on-street parking charges the Board was concerned that charges had not been increased for some time and this has led to the proposal for large percentage increases. Consequently, the Board supports the recommendation to have annual reviews of parking charges in future.
- The Board expressed some concerns about the impact on the local economy and on residents with lower incomes of the increase in on-street parking charges, but the Board was split on whether to recommend the staging of increases in on-street parking charges to lessen their impact.

- In principle the Board supports using differential charging to encourage people to use off-street parking. This works best where the ratio of on-street and off-street parking charges is favourable but notes that this is not consistent across the three Civil Parking Enforcement areas.
- The Board acknowledges the aims of the measures contained in the report to reduce car use and encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport in line with the Council's recently declared climate emergency, and requests that the allocation of any parking surplus funds should have regard to that policy.

**Councillor Bob Bowdler**  
**Chair of the Review Board**