

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 8 MARCH 2016

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE SUBSIDY OF BUNTINGFORD AND SAWBRIDGEWORTH CAR PARKS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth

### Purpose/Summary of Report

- To agree the continuation of an internal subsidy to the Council's Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth car parks.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

<b>(A)</b>	<b>East Herts New Homes Bonus funding is used to subsidise 'pay and display' charges in the Council's Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth car parks in 2016/17.</b>
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#### 1.0 Background

1.1 East Herts Council agreed to subsidise 'pay and display' charges in its Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth car parks in 2015/16. The subsidy was funded from the Council's New Homes Bonus Priority Fund.

#### 2.0 Report

2.1 East Herts Council introduced 'pay and display' charges in its Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth car parks in 2008/09 in compliance with its 'user pays' policy. In 2012/13 Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth Town Councils elected to part subsidise the charges in their respective towns. The subsidy from Buntingford Town Council allows free parking for up to three hours in Bowling Green Lane car park and Sawbridgeworth Town Council's subsidy

allows the first hour's parking in Bell Street car park to be free of charge.

- 2.2 In 2015/16 East Herts Council took over payment of this subsidy, funding it from New Homes Bonus. It was deemed appropriate for this council to do so in view of the fact that a two year trial including reduced 'pay and display' tariffs had begun in Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware in September 2014.
- 2.3 Members are asked to agree an extension of the subsidy to the Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth car parks for a further year, again to be funded from the New Homes Bonus Priority Fund. The renewed subsidy will expire in March 2017, by which time the two year trial in Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware will have ended.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

#### Background Papers

None

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