

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	<p><i>Prosperity</i></p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic and social opportunities.</p>
Contribution to the Council's Parking and Transport Strategy Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will seek to maintain car parking income at current levels in real terms.• We will seek to ensure that users pay for the parking service rather than the council tax payer.• We will make the economic vitality of East Herts a core consideration when developing parking services.
Consultation:	<p>Any re-designation of car parks and/or the introduction of new parking charges would require the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).</p> <p>Promotion of a TRO is an act of consultation as any interested party is allowed to object to the Council's proposals within 21 days of its advertisement.</p>
Legal:	<p>The Council is required to set formally its fees and charges.</p> <p>Changes to car park fees and charges that include a change to car park designation and/or operating hours require the promotion and enactment of a TRO before they can have legal effect.</p>
Financial:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council's financial model/MTFP requires an inflationary uplift of 2.5% to the pay and display base budget in 2013/14.• The introduction of a free or discounted first ½ hour and/or 2hr charge in car parks in Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware will reduce car park income unless adjustments are made elsewhere.• The financial effect of these significant changes might only be known as the year unfolded. The Council might therefore find it necessary to make further corrective changes during 2013/14 should

	<p>the effect on the pay and display base budget prove unsustainable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost to the Council of advertising a number of separate Traffic Regulation Orders in parallel plus a Notice of Variation would be significantly greater than the cost of advertising a single, unified Order.
Human Resource:	N/A
Risk Management:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's financial model requires a 2.5% uplift to the 2012/13 pay and display budget in 2013/14. Should this not be implemented, matching efficiencies might have to be found. • Although occupancy counts are being undertaken, preliminary financial modelling indicates that after the evening flat rate charges have been taken into account there could still be a deficit on the pay and display base budget created by giving a free or discounted first ½ hour and/or 2hr charge in Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware. • Should budget monitoring show that these changes were having an unacceptable adverse effect on the budget Members might wish officers to promote a further TRO during 2013/14 to aid in recovering the position.