

Appendix A – written response to Cllr Curtis' question provided by Steven Linnett

Q: Has the parking income budget been adjusted for the impacts of COVID19?

A: The parking income budgets have been reduced by the £0.2 million increase that was included in the 2020/21 budget to reflect tariff increases. The pay and display budgets have therefore been reduced and frozen at the 2019/20 level. This is mainly as a protection should there be a further national lockdown beyond Q1 2021/22 as the Government base the income compensation scheme on budgeted income and it was felt better to leave the income budget at 2019/20 levels. In terms of actual car park usage going forward, we do not have enough data at this point to know whether the mix of long term to short term parking will change and what demand levels will be like during the course of the day. As a mitigation the balance of long term to short term spaces within car parks can be changed in the Traffic Regulation Orders we expect to start consultation on in 2021/22 in preparation for the parking changes to be introduced as part of the MTFP savings plan.

Within the budget there are 2.5% increases for Season Tickets and Residents Parking Permits. For Residents Parking Permits the 2020/21 forecast outturn is £10k under budget but this is entirely as a result of the payment holiday during the first national lockdown. Therefore incrementing this budget by 2.5%, to match the anticipated increase in the enforcement contract costs is appropriate and likely to be met next financial year. There are a small number of business season tickets sold to tenants in Charringtons House and season tickets for residents in 3 of our car parks where there they have no available parking. These budgets are forecast to be on track this financial year, therefore the budget for next year seems

appropriate and again the increase is to reflect enforcement contract cost increases. The increase in the budget papers for parking therefore reflects only these increases and, to reiterate, no increases in pay and display fee income.

I am therefore satisfied that the estimate for car parking income for 2021/22 is reasonable and fairly reflects: the uncertainties about changing working patterns affecting usage; that suitable mitigations exist in order to rebalance the long stay v short stay spaces should we need to make changes; and that the budget also balances the need to protect levels should a new income compensation scheme be introduced next financial year.