

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration

Decision in the matter of: Notice of Motion: Holmes Chapel Medical Centre - Charge for Temporary Suspension of a Parking Regulation Order

Decision: That having considered the request, it is not considered appropriate to waive the Council's existing charging policy in this case. The policy is publicly available on the website and is applied consistently across the Borough. Charges for the temporary suspension of parking bays are commonly levied by local authorities nationally. It would not be unreasonable to expect the building contractors to have made an allowance and accounted for such a charge in their contingency planning and cost estimate. There does not appear to be any reason to warrant a waiver of the charging policy in this case.

Background: Councillors Les Gilbert and Andrew Kolker submitted the following Notice of Motion to Council on 17 October 2019 , which was referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration for consideration and determination:

Holmes Chapel Health Centre

"That Council rescinds its requirement for Holmes Chapel Health Centre to pay a fee of £4,320 for access through the Holmes Chapel Library car park for the following reasons:-

- 1. Access is required to enable the Health Centre to construct an extension in order to meet the needs of a growing local population.*
- 2. The car park produces no income for the Council and there will therefore be no loss of income as a result of the loss of four parking spaces for two months.*
- 3. The charge amounts to profiteering at the expense of the NHS.*
- 4. The charge adds unnecessary cost to a project to improve public services in Cheshire East.*

The Portfolio Holder responded on 5 December 2019 to explain the charge had been levied in accordance with the Council's existing policy on suspension of parking bays, which is publicly available on the Council's website. The charge levied related to the temporary suspension of the Parking Regulation Orders in respect of the Library car park. The charge followed a request from the Health Centre for prolonged use of these car park spaces for the duration of the redevelopment of the health centre.

On 7 January 2020, the Portfolio Holder responded in writing again to reiterate the above and offered to meet with Councillor Gilbert. A meeting took place on 3 March 2020 with Councillors Les Gilbert and Andrew Kolker, the Portfolio Holder and relevant officers to explain the basis of the dispensation charging policy.

In this case there did not appear to be any reason to warrant a waiver of the charging policy.

Background Documents:

Cheshire East Council's Parking Dispensation Policy:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/car_parks_and_parking/parking_permits_and_contracts/parking_dispensation.aspx

Approved:

Councillor Nick Mannion
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration

Date:

14 May 2020

Executive Director:

Frank Jordan
Executive Director Place