

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Town Centres
2.	Date:	13 December 2010.
3.	Title:	Financial and Statistical Report for Parking Services for the Financial Year 2009 / 2010
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report gives details of statistics and income and expenditure for Parking Services for the financial year 2009 / 2010.

6. Recommendations

- a) **Cabinet Member approves the report and the report is published accordingly.**
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7. Details

Background

The Council, its population and visitors are facing increasingly difficult challenges each year with regard to motoring. Rising fuel costs, changes in the road tax structure, the rising cost of vehicle insurance and traffic congestion all add up to a car being an expensive entity.

Accordingly, parking is a significant issue for motorists.

Rotherham MBC has endeavoured to assist motorists during 2009/10 by the introduction of several initiatives, namely:

- The “Free Parking After 3” scheme, introduced in May 2009 for the remainder of the financial year.
- Free parking in the town centre for the five Saturdays in the run – up to Christmas.
- The Council undertaking enforcement of mis-use of designated disabled bays at Parkgate Shopping Centre.
- The establishment of the Council’s Blue Badge Fraud Investigation Team.

The “Free Parking After 3” scheme

This scheme allowed members of the public to park their vehicles free of charge after 3pm in the town centre. The scheme was funded by the Council and was welcomed by shoppers and, particularly, owners of town centre businesses.

Free Saturday Parking

This offer was introduced for the 5 Saturdays up to Christmas. It was funded by the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund. Businesses in the town reported the scheme to be a significant success and Parking Services employees reported a definite increase in car park usage.

Parkgate Shopping Centre Enforcement

Unauthorised use of designated disabled parking bays was, reportedly, a significant problem at Parkgate Shopping Centre. An arrangement was agreed between the Council, Savills (the owners of the Retail Park) and Total Parking Solutions (TPS) in October 2009. The Council’s Civil Enforcement Officers have, since then, patrolled the area daily enforcing unauthorised parking in designated disabled bays, parking on double yellow lines and parking outside bay markings.

Blue Badge Fraud initiative.

The Council’s Parking Service established a Blue Badge Fraud Investigation Team. Officers received training in surveillance, evidence taking and conflict resolution. The team has worked successfully and this has resulted in the Council securing prosecutions for fraudulent use of blue badges.

8. Finance

Financial:

The total income and expenditure of the on-street and off-street parking account for 2009/10 was as follows:

Total Expenditure **£1,068,652**

Income

Penalty Charge Notices **£ 242,796**

Off Street Pay & Display **£ 596,536**

On Street Pay and Display **£ 216,010**

Permits (staff, residents, private Wellgate permits) **£ 252,346**

Bailiffs **£ 31,125**

Miscellaneous **£ 8**

Total Income **£1,338,821**

Net Surplus **£ 270,169**

It should be noted that the income from penalty charges is wholly off-set by the cost of employing the team of Civil Enforcement Officers, and that the net surplus therefore derives from the operation of its car parks.

The Council works in conjunction with Total Parking Solutions in locations where it is not appropriate for a Traffic Regulation Order to be implemented. Some examples of these locations are Parkgate Shopping Centre (where this arrangement has been in place since October 2009) and various Council Office car parks, to which the public have no access and use is restricted to permit holders only. This arrangement raised a total of £8100 during the financial year 2009/10 and this figure is included in the income figure for Penalty Charge Notices.

The pay and display income figures include a £57,000 funding which was provided by the Council in order to allow the "Free After 3" parking scheme to be offered. It also includes a £19,000 "RERF" (Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund) grant to allow free parking in the Town Centre on the five Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas 2009.

Statistical information:

<i>Number of higher level Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued</i>	5003
<i>Number of lower level PCNs issued</i>	3945
<i>Number of PCNs paid</i>	7691
<i>Number of PCNs paid within 14 days</i>	5838
<i>Number of PCNs against which a formal or informal representation has been made</i>	2445
<i>Number of PCNs cancelled (i.e. where an informal or statutory representation is successful)</i>	1467
<i>Number of PCNs written off</i>	135
<i>Number of vehicles wheel clamped</i>	Nil
<i>Number of vehicles removed</i>	Nil

9. Risks and Uncertainties

N/A

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

N/A

11. Background Papers and Consultation

N/A

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