

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Town Centres.
2.	Date:	21 February 2011
3.	Title:	Proposals to take certain “pay and display” parking machines out of service.
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services.

5. Summary

The Council introduced a cashless system of payment option throughout the town centre in January 2011. As a result, it is proposed to take the opportunity to make significant savings by taking certain “pay and display” machines out of service.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member approves the report and the specified machines are taken out of service with effect from 1 April 2011.

7. Details

The Council has recently, in January 2011, introduced RingGo into the town centre. This is a system which allows customers to pay for their parking activities by means of a telephone and debit / credit card. With the introduction of this payment option, the Council can now realise significant savings by removing certain “pay and display” machines from service.

The savings will be realised from the following sources:

- A reduction in annual maintenance fees of £295 per machine.
- The machines taken out of service will not require the £200 per machine to be spent to enable each machine to accept the proposed 5p and 10p coins, which are due to be amended in size.

The proposal involves the removal of machines from car parks and on-street locations where there are in excess of one machine. The option for customers to pay by cash will remain. The locations where it is proposed to remove machines from service are as follows:

Civic car park
Drummond Street car park
Fitzwilliam Road car parks
York Road car park
Wellgate multi storey car park
Catherine Street
Outside the Eric Manns Building
Eastwood Lane
Main Street
Mansfield Road
Morpeth Street
Norfolk Street
Percy Street
Upper Wellgate
High Street
Grove Road
Westgate
Canklow Road
Sheffield Road
Masbrough Street
Chapel Walk

8. Finance

It is proposed to remove 29 machines from service. The savings will be as follows:

Machine maintenance

29 x £295 = **£8,555**

Machine alteration to allow acceptance of new coins

29 x £200 = **£5,800**

It should also be noted that, since the introduction of the cashless payment method, the Parking Services back office team have not been granting dispensations to vehicles to be parked without payment when machines are temporarily out of order. When customers make contact regarding these matters they are advised to either use the cashless system or park their vehicles elsewhere. It is anticipated that this policy will save the Council approximately **£4,000** per year.

Before the machines are taken out of use it will be necessary to review the signage which is currently in place which instructs customers where the machines are located. The cost of this exercise is likely to be in the hundreds of pounds, rather than thousands. Provision has been made in the Parking Services budget 2010 / 11 for this purpose.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There may be a level of objection from customers who are not comfortable with the technology required to pay by debit / credit card. These customers may have to walk further to facilitate payment by the traditional method.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

N/A

11. Background Papers and Consultation

N/A

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