

## Annex 3

### Comments from Spelthorne Borough in relation to proposals in the report.

'Spelthorne Borough Council ( Councillors and Officers ) have read the draft report on Pay and Display parking charges for Spelthorne and have the following observations and comments to make.

- The recommendation of not to proceed with consultation on parking charges in Shepperton is well received
- The recommendation to proceed with consultation on parking charges in Staines is accepted.
- The recommendation to proceed with consultation on parking charges in Ashford is not supported.

County Officers will recall that at the meeting on 20 June 2011 between SCC and SBC that it was emphatically stated that Spelthorne Councillors did not believe it was appropriate to have charges in either Shepperton or Ashford as both shopping areas were struggling in the difficult economic time we are in. We believe that this has been understood in your recommendation on Shepperton but not on Ashford.

Officers have reviewed the proposed financial implications for Ashford and apart from Church street it appears to be fundamentally flawed as very little surplus is generated over and above the relevant costs associated with the pay and display machines. In paragraph 1.12 it is stated that the tariffs for on street will hopefully encourage visitors to use car parks ( which do have capacity). If this is the case it weakens the income argument further.

SCC has put forward a free thirty minutes parking in Ashford but it perhaps should be highlighted further that the thirty minutes free is only if you have come and gone in this time. If you know that you will be forty minutes you will pay a £1 and nothing will be free!

#### **There are some specific comments on certain paragraphs**

Para 1.13 states that thirty minutes is considered long enough for most visitors to do their shopping. The council feels this is not the case. The shopping area in Ashford is not concentrated, it is along both sides of a long road and not all shopping is on Church Street. If you have children or are slightly older and cannot move as quickly the Council would argue that the free time proposed is not sufficient and it could be argued that it is unfair on our older or less mobile population as they would have to pay.

You will recall that at the meeting we had that it was emphatically stated that the minimum of free parking should be one hour to support our less mobile in the community if parking charges were to be introduced.( Please note though that the view of Councillors at the meeting was that parking charges were not appropriate for Shepperton or Ashford.)

Para 2.2: this appears to conflict with Para 3.2 - i.e. Para 2.2 says there is "almost over provision of parking spaces" and "turnover of spaces in the High Street is reasonable" whilst Para 3.2 says "some say that parking in the village is horrendous". We think it

overstates the position as it can have been only a very few who felt that. It should then go on to say

***“however, the view of the majority is that they have never had any trouble....”***

Para 3.1: We think that it should be better emphasised as the ***“significant number of comments and responses”*** rather than just "many". And it is not just businesses but residents as well.

Para 3.3: not sure of the 2,300 signature petition unless it is an early view of the full one which [will be presented at the local committee](#) i.e. over 6,000 signatures which was closed off at the end of June.

The Council would expect that the above comments and observation are included in the final report and we look forward to receiving a copy of it. ‘