

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING | Council | |
| MEETING DATE | 10 th July 2014 | |
| TITLE: | Petition for debate - Independent shops of Bath opposed to the proposal to increase parking charges | |
| WARD: | All Bath wards | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: Factual briefing note | | |

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 A petition of over 1400 signatures, gathered by the Independent Shops of Bath, has been received protesting at B&NES increase in parking charges in Bath's city centre. According to the Council's petition scheme, if a petition with over 1000 signatures of people who live, work and study in Bath & North East Somerset is received and meets the criteria, it triggers a debate at Council.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That a debate takes place.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The petition specifically requests the following action;

- (1) "A cut in the parking fees in Laura Place and other city centre shopping streets, reversing the increases at the beginning of the year. B&NES has cut parking fees in Victoria Park and we want to see the same in the city centre where it can help shoppers and Bath's independent shopkeepers;
- (2) We'd like to see B&NES introduce a free half hour of parking in the city centre. This would encourage customers to pop in and browse. It's the idea of Brandon Lewis MP, Minister for High Streets, so I can't see why B&NES can't adopt it here".

- 3.2 A briefing note setting out relevant issues is attached for information.

- 3.3 Council, if it wishes, can make recommendations to Cabinet but cannot amend executive policy. Decisions on the amount of money to be allocated to particular uses or proposals are matters for full Council to decide. How any money allocated is spent is a matter for Cabinet, not full Council, to decide.

3.4 The lead petitioner will address Council at the start of the item.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Covered within the attached briefing paper.

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| Contact person | <i>Jo Morrison, Democratic Services Manager (ext 4358)</i> |
| Background papers | <i>Set out in the attached briefing paper.</i> |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |