

CABINET
16TH JANUARY 2020

Off-Street Parking Places Order

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Alex White (Cabinet Member for Finance) and Councillor Luke Taylor (Cabinet Member for the Environment)

Responsible Officer: Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)

Reason for Report: For Members to consider objections and representations made in regard to the proposed changes to the Off-Street Parking Places Order (“OSPPO”).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Cabinet,

- (i) Consider any objections or representations received in time;**
- (ii) Decide whether the proposed changes to the OSPPO should be made with or without modification as set out in Appendix B;**
- (iii) Issue instructions for the variation order to be made.**

Financial Implications: Previous reports to the Economy PDG and the Cabinet have provided an estimate of circa £226k that could be generated from the implementation of the proposed new car park pricing strategy.

Legal Implications: There is a statutory procedure to be followed in making changes to the OSPPO. The appropriate notices have been posted for the changes. Where objections or representations are received in relation to the changes, these must be considered before the final variation order is made. There are other requirements for the making of the order and these will be adhered to.

Risk Assessment: If the statutory process is not strictly followed the parking order cannot be enforced.

Equality Impact Assessment: There are no direct equality implications.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The revised pricing strategy would look to both maximise income and importantly ensure sufficient funds are available for ongoing maintenance works of these key corporate assets.

Impact on Climate Change: No impact assessed.

1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 On 22 August 2019 the Cabinet resolved the new car park pricing strategy and associated tariffs for its Pay & Display Car Parks be approved (minute attached at **Appendix A**).

1.2 Since then, officers have taken the opportunity to review other aspects of the order – these are described in paragraph 2.2 below.

2.0 Public Consultation

- 2.1 In order to introduce these new charges and make some other amendments/inclusions, the Council is required to carry out a 21 day public consultation process, which includes adverts in the local press and the display of schedules for inspection at all of our car parks located throughout the District.
- 2.2 The formal advertising period commenced with an advert in the Tiverton Gazette on the 26 November 2019 and schedules being placed prominently on our car park display boards. For completeness, in addition to our proposed new pricing strategy, we have also taken the opportunity to include some additional new housing/amenity car parks that aren't currently included in the existing OSPPO. These additions are summarised in the notice itself (**Appendix B**).
- 2.3 This was completed on the 18 December 2019 and a summary of objections and representations made can be found in Table 1 and the full list in Appendix C to be considered.

Table 1 – Summary of Objections and Representations Made

Issue Raised	Number of respondents	Officer Responses
1. Will adversely affect trade in town	66	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current parking charges have been frozen at the level introduced back in April 2016.• Reduction in the 1 hour tariff on all short stay car parks.• Introducing stepped tariffs to suit the customers' needs in our long stay car parks.• Still offering 4 days free parking in our long stay car parks on Saturdays at three Town Councils' choice.
2. Will reduce visitors to town	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As above
3. Increase for regular users/employees working in the area	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frozen all day-time permit prices (undertook a major advertising of permits with the C/Tax bills to increase uptake).• We have frozen the price of our annual daytime permits at £310.00 per annum. Therefore, a trader using the MSCP is effectively paying just under £1.35 per day based on a 46 week – 5 day working year.• Reduced overnight permits from £180 to £100 to help relieve residents parking issues during the evening.

4. Don't support increasing charges	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes made to tariffs for overnight parking, Sundays and Bank Holidays. • Maintain 10 amenity car parks throughout the District which have no charging tariffs in them. • Introducing stepped tariffs to suit the customers' needs in our long stay car parks.
5. Don't support evening charges	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to tariffs for overnight parking, Sundays and Bank Holidays. • 30 mins of free parking is currently offered.
6. Other	5	
Total	138	

2.4 In addition to individual responses the Council has also received a petition signed by 2,118 signatories which asked the Council to reconsider the increased fees for the MSCP in Tiverton. This petition was considered at a meeting of Full Council on the 8/1/20 and any comments/proposals can now be verbally updated to this Cabinet meeting (16/1/20) as this would be the earliest opportunity.

3.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

3.1 Following the objections and representations that are received, the recommendation is to implement the new pricing strategy with effect from the 28th January 2020. This date has been chosen to ensure that the necessary notices can be placed confirming that the order has been made (before the changes take effect) and that external contractors (who will be reconfiguring our Pay & Display machines) have sufficient operational contingency plans in place to cope with any go-live issues. It will also allow our District Officers and administrative parking staff to undertake sufficient testing of any changes that are necessary to our back office systems.

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Circulation of the Report: Cabinet Member and Leadership Team