



DECISION OF COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING,
HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT
WITH ADVICE FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISION NO 15/16 DE 183

SUBJECT: Consideration of consultation responses and final decision on North Somerset District Council (Various sites) (off-street parking places) (Variation No1) Order 2016

Background:

The Council's Executive considered a report regarding Off Street Parking Fees and Order review at its meeting on 20 October 2015 and approved the recommended changes to off street parking fees and charges in principle and in order for the legal consultation process to commence.

It also resolved that following consultation, the Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Transport and Economic Development be authorised to consider any objections and approve the final Parking Order with or without amendment.

In accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the proposed changes to the Order, including parking fees, were advertised in the local press, in the affected car parks, on the North Somerset Council web site and at the main council building receptions.

Public Consultation results:

20 responses in total were received during the consultation process, one of these included 74 names against the increase of charges at Worle Diamond Batch. Another consultation response received included four other responses in support of the proposed enforcement at the Campus. In summary the consultation results are:

- Three comments only
- One against the 3 hour charge increase in Short stay car parks
- One (plus 4 others within the same communication) in support of the enforcement at The Campus, with a suggested four hour limit for non permit holders
- Six in support of the early bird low season £2 Carlton ticket. Four of those suggested those ticket be available up to 9.30am or 10am
- One against the increase of charges at Nailsea and Backwell station

- Four against increase of charges at Worle Diamond Batch (One of those had 74 names as an attachment)
- Three in support of Castlewood enforcement of the public areas including marked bays. Comments that all bays should be subject to vehicles details being left at Reception unless vehicle is authorised
- One was against the proposals which included specifically Worle Diamond Batch, the 3 hour short stay increase and the increase for coach parking at Locking Road. Other comments were in connection with all car parks across the district to form part of a business strategy that included all car parks.

Decision:

That the proposals set out in the North Somerset District council (Various sites) (Off- street parking Places) (Variation No1) order 201* as provisionally approved by the Executive on 20 October 2015, are adopted in full with the following amendments:

- The Early bird ticket at Carlton Street multi-story car park be available from 6am to 9.30am (Previous proposal 6am to 9am)
- The Campus parking area time limit without permit or authorised to a maximum of 4 hours between 8am and 8pm (5 hours for blue badge holders)
- Castlewood public parking area be enforced requiring all vehicles to be authorised or have a valid permit displayed (Permits controlled by facilities) at all times.
- That the Sands car park be included in its own separate parking order thus making future changes possible with less impact on the NSC parking order. (Subject to agreement by the car park owner)

That the Orders are sealed with changes effective on the 1 February 2016. That all correspondents are notified of the decision and a final notice is advertised.

Reasons:

The proposals in the Off Street Parking Order 2016 conform to the Council's Policy Objectives and Budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17. The three new areas being introduced will allow enforcement and control at the Campus, Castlewood and Sands car park, which includes marked blue badge areas. The allowance of the extra 30 minutes purchase time at Carlton Street multi-storey car park will allow parents to take advantage of the scheme during school term time. The two station car parks will become the same charge and allow for the revenue to cover the cost of the car parks including maintenance.

Other Alternatives Considered:

A number of options were considered, including that of "no change". The proposals contained in the report attempt to balance a number of competing objectives, i.e. effectively managing off street spaces, encouraging high turnover of spaces in town centres to improve their economic viability, encouraging safe parking in other areas, value for money and balancing the 2015/16 and 2016/17 budget.

Financial Implications

The current (2015/16) revenue income budget for off-street and seafront car parking income is £2.126m. The 2016/17 budget principles include an increase to all revenue income budgets of 2% - this amounts to £42k for these budgets. The proposals contained within this report are estimated to be sufficient to increase overall income by around £70k.

However, no increased charges have applied since November 2014 and current off street and seafront car parking income (2015/16) is expected to fall short of budget by around £200k, although this includes around £100k in relation to Carlton Street.

Risk Assessment

The risk of under recovery of income in relation to a number of income streams will be detailed in the 2015/16 Budget Risks and Robustness Statement. There is a continued risk of under-recovery due to the following factors:-

- Free on-street parking for blue badge holders
- Impact of national concessionary fares scheme
- Economic downturn
- Speed of development of new retail and leisure facilities
- Poor weather conditions
- Changing travel choices

Longer-term opportunities to mitigate this risk include strengthening all on street enforcement (through Civil Parking Enforcement [CPE]) and a wider review of charges across the district.

Implications for Future Years:

The Parking Order is reviewed annually to ensure that off street sites are effectively managed.

Signed.....Executive Member Strategic Planning, Highways
and Economic Development

Dated.....

Confirmation of Advice Given

Signed.....Director of Development & Environment

Dated.....