

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

IN CONSULTATION WITH: THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR BUSINESS,
ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WITH ADVICE FROM: MONITORING OFFICER AND SECTION 151 OFFICER



DECISION NO: 19/20 DE 341

This decision is being taken under the urgency/emergency powers provided in the officer delegations in the Constitution – General Director powers para 2.2:

To take emergency action on behalf of the Council on any matter in cases of urgency or emergency with, wherever possible, prior consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Member and the Chairman of the appropriate Policy and Scrutiny Panel or Committee and Subject to a report as soon as possible afterwards to the appropriate body.

SUBJECT: CAR PARKING MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: This decision affects communities across North Somerset.

BACKGROUND:

The key message in addressing the coronavirus pandemic is to maintain social distancing. Recent activity by the public has demonstrated that this message has not reached everyone, and our car parking arrangements have not helped to support this message. For example, keeping car parks open in desirable locations sends the wrong message because it enables people to congregate either in the car park or close to it, directly contradicting the social distancing we should be encouraging. For example, the weekend of 21 March 2020 was extremely busy on Weston promenade and seafront.

These issues raise questions about how we should manage our car parking across North Somerset and this report describes the Council's response.

Removing parking charges is considered an action that will encourage the movement of people and so it is proposed that they will remain.

We are concerned about the personal contact staff receive during enforcement activities. We will therefore maintain a demand responsive team of 1 or 2 staff to deal with the most serious parking incidents and to address any operational safety issues that arise alongside keeping ticket machines in working order.

It is also proposed to close the car parks listed below which are considered to be popular car parks that enable high numbers of people to congregate.

Car Park	Location
Salthouse	Clevedon
Bus Terminus	Kewstoke/Sand Bay
Beach Road (opposite Commodore)	Kewstoke/Sand Bay
Marine Parade	Weston super Mare
Uphill Beach	Uphill
Knightstone Causeway (signage only)	Weston super Mare
Melrose	Weston super Mare
Worlebury Woods	Weston super Mare
Kilkenny Fields/Cricket club car park Lake Grounds	Portishead

DECISION:

- 1) To keep in place our current scheme of charges but to focus enforcement on addressing dangerous parking issues
- 2) That the car parks and other sites listed below are closed from 24 March 2020 until further notice.

Car Park	Location
Salthouse	Clevedon
Bus Terminus	Kewstoke/Sand Bay
Beach Road (opposite Commodore)	Kewstoke/Sand Bay
Marine Parade	Weston super Mare
Uphill Beach	Uphill
Knightstone Causeway (signage only)	Weston super Mare
Melrose	Weston super Mare
Worlebury Woods	Weston super Mare
Kilkenny Fields/Cricket club car park Lake Grounds	Portishead

These will be reviewed in line with government guidelines.

REASONS:

As detailed in background information.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs

Based on previous periods the potential implication could be £600k lost income for the first quarter of 2020/2021 financial year.

However, the lockdown announced by the government on 23/3/2020 severely restricts movement and actively encourages people to stay at home. This means that the reduced income is probable in any event.

However, by closing the car parks the Council is sending a clear message about supporting social distancing which is particularly relevant at these locations which have proven to be a significant draw for people.

Funding

The funding to close the car parks will be met by revenue budgets as will maintaining the physical barriers.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The current off street parking order is:

North Somerset District Council (Various sites) (Off-street parking places) (Consolidation order) order 2017 (variation 2)

Under Part ii– Authorisation and use of parking places

Section 13: Nothing in this order shall prevent the Council by notice, sign or barrier displayed in the Parking Place;

(i) from closing the Parking Place or any part or parts thereof for any period; and / or
(ii) from setting aside the Parking Place or any part or parts thereof on all days or on certain days or during parts of days for use only by certain vehicles. Persons

(Part (ii) is being used to allow residents access through Knightstone Causeway car park and for the Old Colonial access through Melrose car park)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

NA

CONSULTATION

This decision has been taken in consultation with the Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment

RISK MANAGEMENT

This will help manage the control of Covid-19

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

NA

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

North Somerset District Council (Various sites) (Off-street parking places) (Consolidation order) order 2017 (variation 2)

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER:



Signed:
Director of Development and Environment

Note: If electronic signature used email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

Date: 31 March 2020

With advice from:

Signed:  Monitoring Officer

Note: If electronic signature used email from MO confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

Date: 31 March 2020

Signed:  .S151 Officer

Note: If electronic signature used email from S151 confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

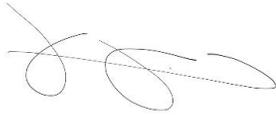
Date: 31 March 2020

Consultees:

Signed:  Chief Executive

Note: If electronic signature used email from Chief Executive confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee

Date: 2 April 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Signed: Executive Member for Business Economy and Employment

Note: If electronic signature used email from Executive Member confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee

Date: 2 April 2020

Signed: .Cllr John Crockford-Hawley. Chairman of Strategic planning, economic development and regeneration policy and scrutiny panel.

Note: If electronic signature used email from Chairman of P&S Panel confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee.

Date: Agreed by email 20 April 2020.