

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>Parking operations and charges – suspension of on and off street parking charges</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	22 June 2020
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Cabinet Member decision dated 23 March 2020 delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Place to decide, in consultation with the cabinet member, whether to extend the period of time these recommendations take effect for.</p> <p>Directorate scheme of delegation: updated 20/05/20</p> <p>Directorate: Economy and Place</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Parking - paragraph 40 and 41 - Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and associated Off Street Car Park Orders – provides for charges and restrictions to apply. Permission to be granted to use parking spaces for another purpose, hire or to waive the parking fee payable for an event or other use</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p><b>Cabinet Member – Infrastructure and Transport</b></p> <p>Having actively engaged with retailers over this issue is in full support of this decision to extend the period of free parking and to fund this from the virement identified. This to provide support to the local economy pending a further cabinet member decision regarding the approach to car parking charges for the future</p> <p><b>Chief Finance Officer</b></p> <p>Confirms that the decision may be taken and that a virement of budget from Housing and Growth strategic delivery budget to cover the short term income shortfall can take place</p> <p><b>Solicitor to the Council</b></p> <p>Confirms that the decision may be taken</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>That in accordance with the delegations allowed in the decision to suspend on and off street car parking charges taken by Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Transport on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the suspension of charges is extended from 27 June 2020 up to and including 24 July 2020; and,</p> <p>That the total estimated cost of £370,000 in relation to predicted loss of income is funded through a virement from the current year Housing and Growth strategic delivery budget</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>There is a general understanding that car parking charges provide for effective demand management of private car use in city and town centres, and that free car parking may create congestion of the spaces closest to the centre of town. However, the delicate economic emergency period as a result of Covid 19 is being balanced with the need to temporarily relax the need to manage demand of car journeys</p>

	<p>The extended period of free car parking will enable the council to monitor and review the use of the car parks, and prepare a key decision for consideration by the Cabinet Member regarding the need to continue to manage demand, consider any further temporary concession and the financial and service implications. This will include a plan to recover income lost as part of this decision through implementation of revised car parking charges structure</p> <p>It should be noted that income from parking is ring fenced to services, as outlined below under legal implications, and any continued budgetary shortfall would impact on the funding available to deliver such services unless alternative sources of funding are identified</p> <p>All other parking restrictions, including resident permits areas, will remain in place throughout this period</p> <p>If through monitoring it is identified that the free parking arrangements outlined in this decision adversely affect space turnover in desired locations, dwell time or any other associated parking/traffic management issue a further decision may be taken to re-implement charges earlier than 25 July 2020</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p><b>Risks</b></p> <p>Oversubscription of the most central parking spaces resulting in less turnover - Parking locations and feedback as a result of these changes will be monitored, should issues arise with space congestion then the current agreed charging regime can be reinstated. The ongoing provision of free parking may deter the use of alternative modes of transport and would be contrary to policies in the Local Transport Plan. However, this short term extension in the light of the current emergency is not expected to impact significantly upon the use of alternative modes and the introduction of temporary measures to support cycling and walking are currently being considered which may mitigate this further</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The associated cost with this decision is circa £370K</p> <p>The loss of car parking income during the Covid 19 emergency period, up to the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, is unavoidable due to restrictions imposed by central Government. It is therefore expected that the loss of income for this period will be recoverable from central government as a direct cost associated with the emergency. It is currently unclear whether any costs associated with the loss of parking income beyond the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (and the subject of this decision) would be eligible for central Government support. Therefore, in order to eliminate the in-year pressure of this decision, a virement of £370K is required from the Housing and Growth strategic delivery budget. This virement reduces the current year revenue budget available for the review of the core strategy. However, this virement is not expected to prevent progress being made. The redeployment of staff during the current crisis has impacted upon the current work programme on the core strategy review but it is expected that this work will continue at pace. The resource requirements for the core strategy will be monitored and if necessary earmarked reserves will be drawn upon to maintain progress this year</p>

	<p><b>Legal</b></p> <p>The council as the traffic authority has the powers to make Traffic Regulation Orders under the RTRA (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) and to deal with on and off-street parking charges</p> <p>As charges will no longer apply (due to this decision) enforcement of paid for parking places will not take place during this period</p> <p>Surplus in parking income, must be spent on, and including provision and maintenance of off street parking, and if such provision is unnecessary, certain other matters, such as the provision or operation of public transport services and highway improvement schemes</p> <p><b>Equality</b></p> <p>Potential impact on disabled badge holders as a result of over subscription of the most central parking locations - Parking locations and feedback as a result of these changes will be monitored, should issues arise with space congestion then the current agreed charging regime can be reinstated</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	The current agreed charging regime remains in place. This is rejected as it at this time as it does not recognise the ongoing economic emergency period
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed

Date: 22 June 2020

**Richard Ball**  
**Director for Economy & Place**