

Report to: **West Devon Council**

Date: **29 July 2020**

Title: **Review of Abbey car park to Change from Long Stay to Short Stay**

Portfolio Area: **Car Parking (Cllr Terry Pearce)**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately following this Council meeting.

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**Recommendations:**

**That Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

- 1. Change Abbey car park from a long stay to a short stay car park;**
- 2. No longer allow parking permits to be valid for use in Abbey car park with the exception of Dolvin Road residents; and**
- 3. Make consequential changes to the Council's Off Street Parking Places Order 2015.**

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 At the meeting of full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020, it was agreed to defer the pay and display review for further consideration following the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 1.2 The Council are looking to support the town and its businesses as we move into the recovery phase of Covid 19 and have subsequently been reviewing the parking survey carried out in Tavistock to see what support can be given to the town.
- 1.3 It is recommended that after reviewing the range of current tariffs in different car parks that the Abbey car park is changed

from a long stay to a short stay car park to increase turnover of vehicles as identified within the Tavistock parking survey.

- 1.4 Lastly, it is recommended that parking permits are no longer valid for use in the Abbey car park with the exception of the Dolvin Road resident permit to reflect the change from long stay to short stay parking.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Following the survey conducted there is a view that there is a requirement to allow more flexibility in the use of car parks in Tavistock.
- 2.2 The survey identified the requirement for Abbey car park to be changed from a long stay to a short stay car park to provide short stay car parking and an increased turnover of vehicles at this location within the Town. This outcome will also support the businesses as we all recover from Covid 19 by providing increased town centre footfall and in turn economic vibrancy.
- 2.3 As Abbey car park is currently a long stay car park, permits are valid for use within this car park however, should the car park change to a short stay car park there is a requirement that permits no longer be valid in this car park with the exception of the Dolvin Road permits where the Council currently has an obligation to provide permits to specific residents.
- 2.4 We currently have 23 Tavistock Town Centre permits issued which are valid not only in the Abbey car park but also Bedford car park, upper levels of Brook Street and Riverside.
- 2.5 Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and Ward Members where the changes have been discussed and comments taken on board prior to arriving at the final proposal ahead of the formal public consultation.

## **3. Outcomes/outputs**

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the recommended amendments to the Pay and Display charges will result in increased turnover in car park spaces and better availability of parking for visitors/ shoppers.
- 3.2 The new changes will be monitored closely by officers.
- 3.3 Whilst not the driver for the proposed changes, it is also anticipated that, if the changes are successful, there may be a modest increase on car park income for this specific car park.

#### 4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 If customers wish to object to the Pay and Display amendments they will have the opportunity to do so formally during a 21-day public consultation exercise due to commence in August 2020. Objections will be considered prior to implementation of any changes.
- 4.2 Appendix A shows the revised Pay and Display tariff.
- 4.3 The reason for making these recommendations is from the findings of survey where it was expressed that there was a strong desire to promote increased turnover in the Abbey car park with a wish for a short stay tariff to be available.

#### 5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 That the pay & display charges be amended in accordance with Appendix A
- 5.2 Should Recommendation 1 and 2 be implemented the changes of the parking charges will be subject of a 21 day consultation period, to which customers will be alerted by a notice in the local press and on the Council's website, together with notices in the car park. This will allow customers to make comments on and/or objections to the proposals, should they wish to do so.
- 5.3 If a significant number of representations were to be received, the matter would be referred to the Hub Committee for further consideration otherwise the detailed implementation of recommendation 1 and 2 should be delegated to the Head of Place Making Practice in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for car parking.

#### 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).</p> <p>The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.</p> <p>Council approval is required because the proposals require changes to the Off Street Parking Places Order.</p>
Financial implications to include reference		Whilst not the driver for the proposed changes (see Section 1) it is anticipated that the changes may

to value for money		<p>generate a modest increase in car park income specifically for the Abbey car park.</p> <p>The cost of implementing the changes will be met from the car parking budget.</p> <p>The difference between the income and expenditure on Off Street Car Parking is used to support costs associated with the operation and maintenance of parking services, its infrastructure and the maintenance of off street car parks. It is also used to support and provide other Council services such as street cleansing, parks and open spaces and other lawfully incurred identified expenditure.</p>
Risk		There is a risk that a significant number of objections to the proposals may be received, which would postpone any implementation, as the objections would have to be considered by Hub Committee ahead of any changes.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council Communities Environment
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		There are no positive or negative impacts.
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
Equality and Diversity		No implications.
Safeguarding		No implications.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No implications.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No implications.
Other implications		None.

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – proposed Pay and Display charges.

**Background Papers:**

None.