

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Roger Symonds, Cabinet Member for Transport		
DECISION DATE:	On or after 2 nd March 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2527
TITLE:	Off Street Car Park Traffic Regulation Orders (Bath) & (North East Somerset)		
WARD:	All		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report:			
Appendix A – Containing comments received during Public Consultation.			

THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider the points raised during the public consultation of Traffic Regulation Order "(Off Street Parking Places) (Bath) Order 201-" and decide how to proceed with the making of the Order.
- 1.2 To consider the points raised during the public consultation of Traffic Regulation Order "(Off Street Parking Places) (North East Somerset) Order 201-" and decide how to proceed with the making of the Order.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 in regard to the proposals after consideration of the objections that the Bath Order is made as advertised subject to the budget report being approved in February as clarified below.
 - In reference to the Bath Order the removal of the 30 minute parking band in the specified car parks is subject to the budget report being approved in February. The income generated from the change will contribute £95k per annum to the proposed 2013/14 additional income targets as part of the Medium Term Service Resource Plan (MTSRP).
 - In reference to the Bath Order the removal of the evening parking band within Avon Street and Charlotte Street subject to the budget report being approved in February. The income generated from the change will

contribute £5k per annum to the proposed 2013/14 additional income targets as part of the MTSRP.

- In reference to the Bath Order the changes to the administration fee for the Off Street Residents Only car parks permits subject to the budget report being approved in February. The income generated from the change will contribute £8k per annum to the proposed 2013/14 additional income targets as part of the MTSRP.

2.2 in regard to the proposals after consideration of the objections that the North East Somerset Order is made as advertised.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The income generated will contribute to the achievement of the 2013/14 budget in Parking Services that are subject to the budget report being approved in February.

2.2 The parking charge proposals are forecast to raise £108k of additional income in 2013/14, as follows: - £95K from the removal of the 30 minute parking band; £5k from the removal of the evening parking band at Avon Street and Charlotte Street car parks; £8K from the changes to the administration fee for Off Street Residents Only car park permits. Delays in agreement to implement the Orders would reduce the additional income received and leave a budget shortfall in 2013/14.

2.3 Delay to implementing the new Order would also delay the implementation of the new Pay & Display machine replacement project. Some of the machines being replaced will be reused into the new Pay & Display scheme in Royal Victoria Park which is forecast to generate £60k revenue in 2013/14. Until the new machines are installed, the reused machines cannot be moved, thus leaving a delay to the implementation of the Royal Victoria Park scheme.

2.4 The cost of making changes to the software that sets the charges in the Pay & Display machines are usually in the region of £5k. As all machines in Bath are to be replaced as part of another project this charge will not however apply.

2.5 As part of the Pay & Display replacement processes it is necessary to change the tariff boards within the car park. This will cost approximately £10k and funding for this is included within in the capital budget for that project. The changes within the Orders as advertised can therefore be implemented at no additional cost.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live

THE REPORT

The existing Off Street Order contains a number of anomalies and have been subject to a number of amendments over time. It was therefore decided to replace these Orders at this point as there is also a need to add new payment methods and exemptions.

As part of the updating process the Off Street Orders are being split into a Bath only Order and a North East Somerset Order for clarity. The new Orders update the terminology to what is considered to be best practice and this helps members of the public to better understand the Orders and their requirements.

Due to the statutory processes and time taken when advertising a Traffic Regulation Order and the costs associated with the process, the Cabinet Member for Transport agreed to include the MTSRP changes to the review of the Order with the understanding that these changes would only be actioned if the necessary agreements were made at the Council budget meeting. If they are not agreed at the budget meeting they will not be progressed and the tariffs will be reinstated at the previously agreed level. Proceeding in this way saves costs associated with the advertisement of the Order and staff time (estimated at an extra £3K if both changes were advertised separately).

Consideration was given to the responses received in regard to the public consultation as shown at Appendix A with officer comments.

The wording within the new Orders also allows the introduction of cashless parking via a mobile phone, increasing the access channels for all customers and allowing them to extend their stay without having to return to their vehicles. This increases dwell times within the city thus helping to safeguard the economic viability and vitality of the centre.

Articles regarding electric charging points are also included allowing enforcement against vehicles who park in the available bays when not charging. Without the powers to enforce and ensure availability of these bays, members of the public are less likely to change to electric vehicles. Electric vehicles reduce the Co2 levels within the centre and help achieve Air Quality targets.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

EQUALITIES

An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

RATIONALE

Due to the number of issues with the existing Order, it was not considered appropriate to delay the advertisement until after the Council budget meeting. It was therefore agreed to proceed in the manner described above with the commitment not to proceed prior to the budget being agreed.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To delay the advertisement of the Order until after the budget meeting. This was rejected due to the rationale set out above. Additionally, due to the time it takes to advertise an Order the savings as specified as part of the MTSRP would not be

achieved for the full year. Whilst parking income is never linear, the loss due to a delay in implementation averages £9k per month.

CONSULTATION

Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies;; Section 151 Finance Officer.

The above were consulted by letter and/or formal consultation.

The proposed Order was advertised for a period of 21 days from 10th to the 31st January 2013. Objections and comments can be received during this period.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Corporate; Other Legal Considerations.

ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Chris Major 01225 394231
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	