

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 24th June 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2884
TITLE:	Royal Victoria Park Traffic Regulation Order	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Parking Services to implement changes to the parking schemes in Royal Victoria Park via the necessary statutory processes and in line with financial regulations.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to agree that the following changes are made to the parking scheme in place in Royal Victoria Park:

- (1) That the charges are varied to allow the first hour of parking to be free of charge; and
- (2) That the maximum stay time is increased to 4 hours in all locations where this is not currently available; and
- (3) That the Cabinet Member notes the impact on the Parking Services budget from the implementation of the fee change and approves the virement of funding from the Highways Services cost centre.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The current charges in Royal Victoria Park generate income in the region of £80k per annum. Removal of charges for the first hour of parking and increased time limits will reduce Parking Services income by an estimated £40k per annum from loss of income in Royal Victoria Park and other parking locations. Estimates are based on current and predicted usage patterns.

3.2 Increased time limits will allow longer stay parking which may encourage visitors to the city centre to use Royal Victoria Park as a parking location as it is

cheaper. This could result in a reduction in income in other on and off street parking locations; however this is difficult to quantify.

3.3 It is proposed that this reduction in income is managed within the overall budget for the Place Directorate, specifically through a rebase within street lighting in the Highways budget, where maintenance and energy costs are reduced through programme management and energy contracting.

3.4 There is risk that the current energy supply rates, secured at a time when rates were low, will be higher when next tendered (due 2018/19) and at that point that there will be insufficient budget to cover the costs. Risk of growth from changing energy costs will be added to the robustness statement for Place.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 All changes to Traffic Regulation Orders must be advertised in line with the relevant legislation (The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996)

5 THE REPORT

5.1 Time limits and parking charges were implemented in Royal Victoria Park in June 2013 to reduce the issue of long term commuter parking within the park area reducing the number of available bays for users of the park. Charges were set at £1 per hour, lower than other on street parking charges to reflect the user groups who were likely to use the facilities available.

5.2 In January 2014, the charges for the first and second hours were reduced to £0.50 per hour at the request of the then Cabinet.

5.3 It is proposed to remove the fee for the first hours parking whilst still requiring the driver to collect a Pay & Display Ticket from the parking machine to aid enforcement and ensure that vehicles are not parked for longer than permitted. The change will reflect the Cabinet Manifesto commitment to deliver free parking in this location.

5.4 The Traffic Regulation Order is being proposed as it is the duty of every local authority to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities as set out in section 122 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

5.5 There is already a full programme of Traffic Regulation Order work within the department and a number of additional requests have already been added to the 2016/17 programme. Therefore either a programme variation needs to be agreed or additional resource secured to complete the work associated with the Traffic Regulation Order.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The proposals are designed to address parking issues for visitors to the park, removing barriers to those wishing to use the facilities.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 To not proceed with the proposal. This was rejected as the changes to the parking scheme are a Cabinet priority.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet members; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Local Residents; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer will all be consulted as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process, including public advertisement.

8.2 Monitoring & s151 officers have had opportunity to review & input into this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Chris Major 01225 394231</i>
Background papers	N/a
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	