

Motion to Amend Central Residents' Season Ticket

Cabinet

Date: 13th June 2018

Author: Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity
Corporate Director for Communities and Housing/ Head of Highways and Transport

Wards: Central, Eastcott, and Old Town

Parishes Affected: Central Swindon South

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report sets out the response to a resolution at Council and seeks Cabinet agreement to make no further amendments to the season ticket scheme at this time. There would, therefore, be no discounted season ticket option for residents to use the short stay town centre and Old Town Council Car Parks.
- 1.2 The report addresses the concerns raised on 22nd February 2018 (Council Minute 89, 2017/18 refers) and in a report to Cabinet on 17th March 2018 (Cabinet Minute 93, 2017/18 refers).

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Authorise the Head of Highways and Transport to undertake a review of the current arrangements after 12 months of their operation.
- 2.2 Authorise the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity to report this outcome to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 On 22nd February 2018, Council resolved that: "This Council, (1) Notes that a Council motion is to be considered by Cabinet regarding the reduction of charges for residential parking season tickets in Council Long-Stay Car Parks (2). Requests that the Cabinet Member include within this item to Cabinet the feasibility of the Residents Parking Season Ticket charge being applied to other secure Council Car Parks, plus a fee for the Council's security services" (Council Minute 89, 2017/18 refers).
- 3.2 Cabinet responded with a resolution on 17th March stating " (1) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to: a) Amend the Residents Parking Scheme that includes a 'Town Centre zone' & 'Old Town Centre Zone' to enable residents not included in the existing zones and living within this area to purchase a permit to park at any time in the town centre long stay car parks (£299 per year, £150 for 6 months), or park between 6.00pm and 9.00am only

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Dawn Woollard, 01793 463771, dwoollard@swindon.gov.uk.

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(£149 per year); and b) Undertake a review of this change after one year (2) That the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills be authorised to report this outcome to the next appropriate meeting of Council." (Cabinet Minute 93, 2017/18 refers).

- 3.3 Legal orders are in place currently that only allow residents' permits to be used in Long Stay Car Parks.
- 3.4 The current Town Centre Resident Parking Scheme allows the resident to park at any time in a town centre long stay car park for £625 per year, or £312.50 for 6 months. This has since been amended to a season ticket cost of £299.

Further Possibilities for Change

- 3.5 Officers have been asked to investigate whether a similar discount could be applied to the Council's short stay car parks to allow residents to make use of car parks at times when they are less used by businesses and shoppers. Until use of the new season ticket has commenced, officers are unable to predict the demand for these tickets and therefore the impact that this uptake may have on the use of short stay car parks.
- 3.6 Current uptake of the discounted residents' season ticket is presently very low. Without reviewing the numbers of tickets purchased, officers cannot review the effect of similar discounted tickets in short stay car parks. If the resident permit demand were to be high, then the spaces available in short stay car parks would be affected.
- 3.7 Depending on location of the resident's property, the Council would advise the resident to use the current nearest car park.
- 3.8 The Council needs to ensure that short stay spaces are available for appropriate users. At present short stay use in both the town centre and Old Town car parks is generally high, leaving limited spare capacity throughout most of the day.
- 3.9 In addition, Old Town short stay car parks are close to capacity in the evenings. As the town centre develops, the Council would expect to see evening use of short stay town centre car parks also increase.
- 3.10 If parking in short stay car parks were allowed, the Traffic Regulation Order would need to be amended. Without knowing the uptake in season tickets, this would represent an unnecessary cost at this stage.
- 3.11 Given these unknowns, it is recommended that no further changes be made; however, a review should be undertaken in a year's time. If approved, the Cabinet Member is requested to report this outcome to Council.

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4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Cabinet could choose to add the ability for residents' Town Centre Permits to be used in short stay car parks. However, this would affect the users of the short stay car parks, as these facilities are designed for a quick turnover to support the shopping centres.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The 2018/19 budget was approved before Council's resolution. Having high numbers of long stay permit holders taking short stay spaces would reduce the Council's expected income.

- 5.2 There are no Procurement Implications.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 The Council is required to comply with the statutory provisions referred to in the report. All other legal and human rights implications have been considered in the preparation of this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.4 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found. A copy of the DIA can be obtained from the report author.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A Risk Assessment has been completed. No significant risks or issues were found. A copy of the Risk Assessment is available from the report author.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

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8. Appendices

8.1 None

9. Key Decision/Decision in Cabinet Work Programme

9.1 This is a Key Decision and is included in the Cabinet Work Programme for March 2018.