

# Amendments to Residents' Parking Schemes

**Cabinet**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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Author: Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills  
Corporate Director for Communities and Housing/ Head of Highways and Transport

Wards: Central, Eastcott, and Old Town

Parishes Affected: Central Swindon South

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## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet authorisation to amend the Residents' parking scheme that includes the "Town Centre" and the "Old Town Centre" zones to provide a discounted season ticket option for residents to use the long stay car parks.
- 1.2 This report also responds to issues contained in a motion tabled at Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 but passed to Cabinet under Standing Order 9(1) because of its financial implications (Council Minute 73, 2017/18 refers).

## **2. Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Authorise the Head of Highways and Transport to:
  - 2.1.1 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 (£149 per year).
  - 2.1.2 Undertake a review of this change after one year
- 2.2 Authorise the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills to report this outcome to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

## **3. Detail**

Background

- 3.1 Legal orders in place currently only allow residents' permits to be used in Long Stay Car Parks.
- 3.2 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.

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- 3.3 At Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the following motion, as amended, was deferred to Cabinet under Standing Order 9(1) (Council Minute 73, 2017/18 refers):

"This Council:

Notes:

It has a surplus of daytime car parking which should satisfy foreseeable Town Centre demand and that this demand is very low in the evening leaving large areas of unused parking.

The review of Town Centre Residents parking scheme undertaken in December 2017 and that surplus from on-street car parking income is ring-fenced by statute for car parking purposes only and cannot be an additional revenue stream to be spent by for the Council for other purposes."

Requests:

The Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills bring a report to Cabinet considering proposals to:

1. 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 (£149 per year).

2. Undertake a review of this change after one year."

## Proposed Changes

- 3.4 Having considered representations from ward councillors, and other stakeholders, it is believed that a more attractive charge would produce an increased revenue stream for the Council and provide an attraction to residents wishing to locate in the Town Centre. Since residents are not using the Council's car parks in these areas it is reasonable to conclude that vehicles are currently parking somewhere unknown for free or in a private facility.
- 3.5 It is proposed to reduce the cost of the 'Town Centre zone' & 'Old Town Centre Zone' from £625 per annum to £299 per annum, and reduce from £312.50 to £150 for 6 months.
- 3.6 In order to maximise income and reflect the concerns raised by Members at Council, Officers have reviewed the current evening Town Centre Residents' Parking scheme to see if more advantages for Swindon could be delivered by

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having an evening Residents, Parking scheme to sit alongside the existing 24 hours scheme.

- 3.7 Therefore, it is recommended that residents' evening parking between 6.00pm and 9.00am only be reduced to £149 per year.
- 3.8 In order to ensure that the change has a positive effect on the Council's car parking finances, officers also recommend that a full review be conducted after one year.

## Additional Council resolution

- 3.9 On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, Council approved the following resolution: "This Council:

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.

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."

- 3.10 In order that sufficient Officer time be allocated to investigating the changes recommended by Councillors, the Cabinet Member has advised that he wishes to respond to this resolution in a subsequent Cabinet report.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Retain the current pricing, which neither puts the needs' of residents first nor delivers best value for the council.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Failure to sell nine permits would present a loss to the council.
- 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.
- 5.4 The price amendment to the Town Centre Resident Permit would need 20 days statutory advertisement, before implementation.

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

5.5 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.6 A diversity impact assessment has not been completed as, on the basis of information considered within this report, it is not believed that there would be any adverse impacts on the protected equality characteristic group.

Risk Management

5.7 A Risk Assessment has been completed. No significant risks or issues were found. A copy of the Risk Assessment is available from Dawn Woollard.

## **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

## **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 February 2018.