

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING

**Responsible Cabinet Members –
Councillor Andy Keir, Local Services Portfolio
Councillor Alan Marshall, Economy Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update on Town Centre Car Parking charges and seeks approval to continue a range of parking offers for a further two years supported by funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Summary

2. Parking offers have been in place to support the town centre since June 2018 and in September 2020 Members agreed to extend parking offers to continue to support the town centre, specifically on the approach to the Christmas period.
3. In that report it was noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority was considering initiatives to support town centre economies and such support included provision for parking offers. At the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet of 27 November 2020 funding was approved to support parking offers across the Tees Valley for a two year period.
4. For Darlington the funding enables a long-term parking offer to be put in place. A free two hour parking offer is proposed in Council operated car parks and pay and display parking areas in the town centre area to support the town centre economy.
5. More detailed information on the offers, charges and locations is included at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposed charges and offers in Appendix 1 that will be funded by Tees Valley Combined Authority until the end of December 2022.

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) To approve the amendment to charges;
- (b) To support the recovery of the town centre.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report June 2018
 Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report October 2019
 Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report September 2020

Dave Winstanley: Extension 6618

S17 Crime and Disorder	Whilst anti-social behaviour and crime does on occasions take place in car parks, there is no impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	Users of car parking facilities will be encouraged to pay by contactless methods and follow public health hygiene guidance in terms of hand cleansing following use of any machines.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There may be an impact on carbon emissions as a result of encouraging more car journeys into the town centre.
Diversity	An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on the offer introduced in June 2018 and this has been updated to consider the proposals in the report.
Wards Affected	Car parks are located in Park East and Northgate, however residents from across the Borough and beyond will utilise them.
Groups Affected	No group is affected any differently to any other.
Budget and Policy Framework	The extension of the parking offers will have a financial impact on the MTFP with the funding for the offer being provided by Tees Valley Combined Authority.
Key Decision	This a key decision as the proposals result in financial implications which are significant.
Urgent Decision	This is an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The proposals contained in this report have an impact on the Perfectly Placed element of the strategy; encouraging more people to utilise the town centre for business, retail, social and leisure.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's Efficiency agenda as a result of this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The Council has funded a variety of Town Centre Parking initiatives to support the Town Centre Economy since June 2018 most recently approving offers to continue until January 2021.
9. In the report to Cabinet in September 2020, it was noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority was considering initiatives to support Town Centre recovery and such support included provision for parking offers. At the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet of 27 November 2020 funding was approved to support parking offers across the Tees Valley for a two year period.
10. Members will be aware of the challenging trading environment facing Darlington town centre retailers in recent years. This has been further compounded this year by enforced retail closure because of coronavirus lockdown rules.
11. For Darlington town centre the funding enables a long-term parking offer to be put in place on the car parks and parking areas in the town centre to encourage shoppers and support the recovery town centre recovery until the end of December 2022.
12. More detailed information on the offers and locations is included at Appendix 1, but in summary:
 - (a) Council operated parking areas within the town centre and within a defined cordon generally within the inner ring road will continue to have a two hour free offer.
 - (i) Drivers will be expected to check details of the charges at machines.
 - (ii) In pay and display bays tickets will be issued for the free offer and must be displayed. Drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hour free period where available.
 - (iii) In the MSCP there will be two hours free, but drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hours.
 - (b) Where there is an offer on a parking area it is recommended the same charging structure is in place every day. This will mean Sundays would have a two hour free offer, then drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hours where available.
 - (c) Market Square – this area was a 30 minute max stay. The free for two hours was introduced in September to provide consistency across the town centre and this is proposed to continue.
 - (d) The parking areas outside the inner ring road are specified in more detail in Appendix 1 and will revert to their pre-offer charging rates.
13. While the Tees Valley Combined Authority funding support permits the current offers to continue, the free parking offers will also have impact on private sector car

parking operators (there are three). Details of the locations of all the car parks are set out in the map attached at **Appendix 2**.

Financial Implications

14. Tees Valley Combined Authority have approved funding to cover the parking offers identified in this report based on pre-Covid parking levels.

Legal Implications

15. Members must take into consideration that the parking offers for Council operated car parks are likely to have adverse impacts on providers of private car parks. The proposals set out in the report have been reviewed from the perspective of state aid and anti-competition law and it is considered that the proposals are lawful.
16. The necessary legal notices are being progressed and operational arrangements being put in place for implementation of these measures, subject to approval by Cabinet. It is anticipated the new offers could be operational from around 11 January 2021. The current offers would continue until that date is confirmed and publicised.

Equalities Considerations

17. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out for the parking offer introduced in June 2018 and has been subsequently reviewed as parking offers have changed. The fact that the spaces closest to main town centre facilities have an offer and control on time is in place should assist individuals who find the walk difficult to access parking. In addition, on-street car parking for Blue Badge Holders is not affected and there is also a car park exclusively for Blue Badge Holders at the town hall.
18. The numbers of Blue Badge parking bays in the town centre car parks will remain the same; on street car parking for Blue Badge Holders is not affected, but controls will create more turnover of spaces and prevent blocking.

Proposed Charging Structure January 2021 to December 2022 (inclusive)

APPENDIX 1

Off Street Car Parks – Town Centre within Inner Ring road included in the Parking offer

Parking Location	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Abbotts Yard	80	1 hour £1 2 hours £2	£1 all day	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)
Commercial Street East	117	3 hours £3 4 hours £4 5 hours £5		£1 for each subsequent hour 3 hours £1	£1 for each subsequent hour 3 hours £1
Commercial Street West	156	6 hours £6 7 hours £7 8 hours £8		4 hours £2 5 hours £3 6 hours £4	4 hours £2 5 hours £3 6 hours £4
Winston Street North	25	9 hours £9 10 hours £10		7 hours £5 8 hours £6	7 hours £5 8 hours £6
Winston Street South	36				
Town Hall	8			No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
Feethams MSCP	650				
East Street MSCP has traditionally been under-utilised as a short stay car park. It has been converted to include a low cost long stay parking offer within the town centre.					
East Street	338	£1 per hour £4 per day <i>£2 per day introduced June 2018.</i>	£1 per day	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) £2 per day No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) £1 per day No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.

Off Street Car Parks – Town Centre outside the inner ring road excluded from the Parking offer

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm
Archer Street	62				
Kendrew Street East	76				
Kendrew Street West	85	£1 per hour -up to 3 hours		<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i>	
Park Place East	95	More than 3 hours - £4 per day		£1 per hour -up to 3 hours	
Park Place West	115	2 days - £8 3 days - £12	£1 per day	More than 3 hours - £4 per day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i>
Garden Street	72	Weekly ticket (up to 7 days) £16		2 days - £8 3 days - £12	
Hird Street	14			Weekly ticket (up to 7 days) £16	
St. Hilda's Tannery Yard Parkgate	15				£1 per day

Off Street Car Parks with specific purpose and charging structure excluded from the parking offer.

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm
Chesnut Street	109	£2 per day HGVs and coaches free Weekly ticket (cars only, up to 7 days) £8 per week HGVs and coaches 6pm-8am every night £4 per night	£1 per day, HGVs and coaches free	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £2 per day HGVs and coaches free Weekly ticket (cars only, up to 7 days) £8 per week HGVs and coaches 6pm-8am every night £4 per night	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £1 per day, HGVs and coaches free

Park Lane (Station)

Park Lane is predominantly linked to Rail Station usage and as such there are no planned changes associated with this car park.

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 9.30am to 5pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Park Lane	108	£5 all day	£1 all day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £5 all day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £1 all day

On Street Parking Bays

Parking Location	Charges Prior to Offers		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
	Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm	Sunday	Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Areas included in the Parking offer				
East Row Horsemarket	Max Stay 30 mins 50p for maximum 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 30 mins 50p for maximum 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket. NOTE: this retains the maximum stay from 30 minutes in these bays to 2 hours	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket. NOTE: this retains the maximum stay from 30 minutes in these bays to 2 hours
Grange Road, Town centre Northumberland Street (Imperial Quarter)	Max Stay 3 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 3 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour_	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) 2½ hours - 50p 3 hours - £1 A max stay of 3 hours exists 50p for each 30 mins above the or part thereof to a Max of 3 hours total No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) 2½ hours - 50p 3 hours - £1 A max stay of 3 hours exists 50p for each 30 mins above the or part thereof to a Max of 3 hours total No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
Barnard Street Barnard East Back Street Beaumont Street Beaumont Street West Duke Street South Arden Street	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket

Winston Street		FREE ON SUNDAY OFFER <i>Introduced October 2019</i>	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
Areas excluded from the Parking offer				
Gladstone Street Kendrew Street North Lodge Terrace Victoria Road	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour

	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
Parking Location	Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm	Sunday <i>(Introduced – Oct 19)</i>	Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm	Sunday 9am – 5pm
Areas included in the Parking offer				
East Raby Street Larchfield Street Napier Street Powlett Street Primrose Street Raby Street West Powlett Street	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE <i>(NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)</i> A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours NO CHARGE <i>(NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)</i> A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.

Areas excluded from the Parking offer				
Hargreave Terrace Park Place Swan Street Victoria Embankment	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour