

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th May 2021
Report Subject	Car Parking Charges
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County Council took the decision to suspend all Pay and Display car parking charges across the County from 25 March 2020 due to the on-going COVID pandemic.

Following the Welsh Government announcement to allow non-essential shops to reopen from the 22 June 2020, the decision was made to continue the suspension of car parking charges until the 31 August 2020 and this was further extended by Cabinet at their meetings in September 2020, January 2021 and March 2021.

The suspension of parking charges in town centre car parks is intended to help town centre businesses recover after the pandemic however, as the car park in Talacre is seen as a specific 'end destination' car park, the reason for the original introduction of charges at this particular facility remain unchanged and this report seeks approval to reinstate the charges.

This report also seeks approval to introduce a charging regime on to the newly developed park and ride car park that has been built on Deeside Industrial Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the reintroduction of parking charges in Talacre car park.
2	That Cabinet approves the introduction of a charging structure for Deeside Industrial Park, Park and Ride car park.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PROPOSAL OF SUSPENDING CAR PARKING CHARGES
1.01	<p>The County Council took the decision to suspend all Pay and Display car parking charges across the County from 25 March 2020. This decision was made both to reduce personal contact and the risk of surface transmission of the COVID 19 virus from machines and to assist key workers and essential shopping at this challenging time. This aligned with national guidance issued by the British Parking Association. At this time the Civil Parking Enforcement Team were stood down from routine duties and deployed to assist with other work across the Council.</p>
1.02	<p>Following Welsh Government's announcement to allow non-essential shops to reopen from the 22 June 2020, the decision was made to continue the suspension of charges until the 31 August 2020. This decision was made to support town centre recovery post lockdown. At this time, the Enforcement Team were reinstated into their substantive role to ensure that all parking restrictions were being complied with.</p>
1.03	<p>In September, Informal Cabinet approved the continued suspension of car parking until the 31 December. This decision was made to further support town centre recovery up to, and throughout, the Christmas period.</p>
1.04	<p>In January 2021, Informal Cabinet approved the continued suspension of car parking until the 31 March 2021 due to Wales being in Alert level 4 and town centre businesses being closed.</p>
1.05	<p>In March 2021, Cabinet approved the continued suspension of car parking until the 30 June 2021, with the option to extend the suspension until 30 September 2021, to further support town centre recovery following the easing of lockdown rules.</p>
1.06	<p>The suspension of parking charges in town centre car parks is intended to help town centre businesses recover after the pandemic however, as the car park in Talacre is seen as a specific 'end destination' car park, the reason for the original introduction of charges at this particular facility remain unchanged from before to the national emergency.</p> <p>Talacre welcomes both local and national visitors throughout the year to make use of the beaches and amenities in the area. While these visitors are welcomed, parking provision at this location is restricted and has been a long term concern of the Council, due to the negative impact of inconsiderate parking on local residents.</p> <p>Parking charges were introduced in the Council owned car parks in 2015, with improvements made to on street restrictions and increased parking provision made in 2016. Through effective off street parking management the village became more accessible and defused the frustration of local resident who live there. The income generated through the Pay and Display parking has part funded the ongoing cost of providing the parking arrangements and the officers needed to enforce the restrictions.</p>

1.07	<p>Since the easing of lockdown restrictions visitors have started to return to Talacre and approval is sought to re-introduce the parking charge regime in to the area so that full management of the parking arrangements can take place.</p> <p>Talacre cannot be classified as a town centre, and the businesses at the location will benefit from the increased influx of tourists as the restrictions on travel abroad are continued.</p> <p>From routine visits to the area it has been noted that local businesses with their own car parks have started implementing their own charges for parking, creating confusion and disparity for our visitors.</p>				
1.08	<p>The income generated from the pay and display parking (approx. £20k per annum) supports the ongoing provision of the parking spaces and if reintroduced, a clear communication campaign and improved signage would be required to notify both residents and visitors.</p>				
1.09	<p>A Welsh Government funded car park has been developed on the edge of the Deeside Industrial Estate to provide a park and ride facility for local business, enabling employees to travel to the site by car before making their onward journey via regular shuttle bus services.</p> <p>Bus services from the site will route through the zones of Deeside Industrial Park, and as such would provide an attractive alternative to employees who currently park on street near their place of work.</p> <p>This development, as part of the North East Wales METRO, will deliver benefits to sustainability, through the reduced use of the private car, and to the operation of local highways and highway safety, through the reduction of on-street parking in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Within the car park there are 192 spaces of which six are Electric Vehicle charging points, nine are designated disabled parking spaces and there will be an area for motorcycle parking.</p>				
1.10	<p>It is proposed that the facility be used as a multi-use car park with the ability to purchase an annual permit or a day ticket, opening up opportunities for many in the surrounding areas to take advantage by using the pay and display allocation for 'park and share' to complete onward journeys, particularly whilst demand is built up from businesses within the park following the recent lockdown periods.</p>				
1.11	<p>It is proposed that a charging structure be implemented in line with the current 'out of town' charges included in the Council Car Parking Strategy and the permit cost will align with the current 'business/trader permit' costs</p> <table data-bbox="320 1890 815 1966"> <tr> <td>All day Tariff</td> <td>£1 per day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Permit</td> <td>£48 per year</td> </tr> </table> <p>The pay and display parking will be managed by the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Team.</p>	All day Tariff	£1 per day	Business Permit	£48 per year
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There will be no impact on staff resources due to this proposal. The seven enforcement officers employed will undertake patrols and management of the parking spaces and machine maintenance.
2.02	The car park construction costs have been funded by WG through their North East Wales Metro project.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	A full impact assessment for car parking charging was completed at the implementation stage and these proposals do not impact on the outcome of that assessment.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside.
4.02	Local Member.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Suspension of car Parking Charges</p> <p>Suspension of Town Centre Car Parking Charges.pdf (flintshire.gov.uk)</p> <p>Suspension of Car Parking Charges.pdf (flintshire.gov.uk)</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.

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