

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

Date 21st March 2018

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Lyme Valley car parking**
- Submitted by:** **Engineering Manager**
- Portfolio:** **Finances and Resources**
- Ward(s) affected:** **Town**

Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to include the two remaining Lyme Valley car park in the existing proposed off-street parking order.

Recommendations

1. **To approve the remaining two car parks be included in the off-street parking order which is currently being drafted.**
2. **To authorise the Executive Director (Regeneration and Development) in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finances and Resources to consider the consultation responses and make the off-street parking order as necessary.**

Reasons

Following Cabinet's approval of a previous report where only one car park in the Lyme Valley was approved to be managed by the introduction of charging for parking, a significant number of observations have been received regarding displacement, in particular to the remaining two car parks.

1 Background

- 1.1 There are three car parks situated in the Lyme Valley car park which are intended for use primarily by users of the park.
- 1.2 Unfortunately with the Lyme Valley Park being in close proximity to the hospital the car park off the A34 is often full with members of staff and visitors to the hospital, with some similar use to the car park adjacent to the football club.
- 1.3 There is some use of the car park located off Lyme Valley Road (behind Homebase) by shoppers and staff from the town centre.
- 1.4 A previous report (July 2017) agreed that charging should be introduced to the car park situated off the A34 and that the remaining two car parks be monitored.

2 Issues

- 2.1 A number of observations have been received from members of the public who are concerned that if charging on the car park off the A34 is introduced then there will be displacement of the staff and visitors to the other car parks especially the one located next to the football club.
- 2.2 Officers have visited the site and can confirm that there are already cars parked on the car park adjacent to the football club with a number understood to be staff and visitors to the hospital. This car park is 5 or 6 minutes' walk to the one located off the A34.
- 2.3 There has been some concern from the public that a number of the cars parked in the car park off Lyme Valley Road are staff and visitors to the town centre and not users of the park.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 Officers are currently in a position whereby the original proposal, of only introducing an off-street parking order for the Lyme Valley car park located off the A34, could be easily amended to include the remaining two car parks, thereby reducing any administrative and consultation costs.
- 3.2 It is proposed that all three car parks be included in the new off-street parking places order with the ticket machines at each location.
- 3.3 Due to the hospital being a 24-hour/day operation it is proposed that the car parks tariffs match these times so the tariffs for the car parks in the Lyme Valley would be:
 - 3.3.1 Off the A34 - free up to 2 hours and £6.00 up to 12 hours.
 - 3.3.2 Off Lyme Valley Road (behind Homebase) - free up to 2 hours and £6.00 up to 12 hours.
 - 3.3.3 Adjacent to football club - free up to 3 hours and £6.00 up to 12 hours.
- 3.4 A ticket from the machine will need to be obtained and displayed at all times (including the free period) to assist in the enforcement of the regulations.

4 Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Providing access to healthy and active lifestyles is a key priority for the Council.

5 Legal and Statutory Implications

- 5.1 The Council is required to operate the car park in accordance with the Traffic Management Act.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Charging will not affect the protected equality groups as registered disabled users will still be eligible for free parking in line with the overall Council car park fees and charges.

7 Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The cost to provide enforcement of these two additional cost car parks, depending on the frequency of visits could be about £6,240 each per annum (cost of Stoke City Council enforcing due to the car park off the A34 being located in the administrative area of Stoke).
- 7.2 However due to the close proximity of the car parks off the A34 and adjacent to the football club there is likely to be some reduction.

- 7.3 The car park off Lyme Valley Road may be able to be enforced using Borough Council civil enforcement officers.
- 7.4 There would need to be cash collections for the ticket machines, this will cost £30 per week and a 40p counting charge per £100 collected.
- 7.5 Three new parking machines would need to be purchased at an approximate cost of £4,000 each including installation and a maintenance cost of £350 per year. Neither of these costs have been budgeted for and would require capital and revenue funding. Therefore it is proposed that these costs be funded from the first £12,000 of income the Council receives from these machines.
- 7.6 The alternative option is that suitable ticket machines may become available from the planned closure of another car park in the town centre. Subject to the timing of the latter the machines would require some reconfiguration which would cost about £2,500.
- 7.7 The income from the car parks would be dependent on the level of charges proposed, taking account of the fact that the Council is attempting to promote the short term nature for leisure users compared to all day parking. It is proposed to provide for a nil charge for stays up to 2/3 hours and £6.00 up to 12 hours. Parking would be free to Blue Badge holders subject to a maximum of 3 hours. Overall it is envisaged that costs would be balanced by income to achieve cost recovery.
- 7.8 Should a penalty charge be issued the charge is £50 or £70 pounds depending on contraventions with a 50% discount if paid within 14 days.

8 Major Risks

- 8.1 The main risk should the changes not be made to the management of the car parks is reputational both from the users of the Lyme Valley Park and the adjacent business.
- 8.2 There is a risk that the council will not achieve at least a break-even financial position.

9 Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 9.1 Cabinet report 19th July 2017 – Lyme Valley car park off A34.