

CABINET MEETING – 7 September 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Moving Traffic Enforcement and Parking Services Review

Author:

Executive Director of City Development

Purpose of Report: To seek approval for the Council to implement a number of changes to parking charges as a result of a service review in accordance with the parking strategy.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is requested to authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to implement the review of parking charges as detailed in Appendix 1 in accordance with the parking strategy.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Parking Strategy determines that the Council should actively encourage a modal shift away from the use of private cars towards more sustainable modes of transport without harming regeneration and the economic activity of the city.

Changing, increasing, reviewing and monitoring parking charges encourages that modal shift and in addition should ensure a reasonable turnover of city centre parking spaces which supports the viability of the city centre.

It is proposed to allow for a period of transition and phase the proposals in following public awareness and engagement with the proposals being introduced January 2024.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Do not apply the changes to charges in accordance with the Parking Strategy, however none of the objectives set out in the report would be realised.

Impacts analysed;

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?	Yes
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?	Yes
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?	Yes

CABINET – 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

MOVING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND PARKING SERVICES REVIEW

Report of the Executive Director of City Development

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Council to implement a number of changes to parking charges as a result of a service review in accordance with the parking strategy.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to implement the review of parking charges as detailed in Appendix 1 in accordance with the parking strategy.

3.0 Background

Free After Three

- 3.1 In 2021 as a result of the Covid pandemic a review of parking charges in the City Centre determined what could be reviewed and implemented in the short term to support the local economy due to the pandemic. This short-term intervention is now part of a wider review of how we manage our parking facilities while encouraging sustainable transport options.
- 3.2 The Parking Strategy determines that the Council should actively encourage a modal shift away from the use of private cars towards more sustainable modes of transport without harming regeneration and the economic activity of the city. Changing, increasing, reviewing and monitoring tariffs should encourage and create such a shift and should ensure a reasonable turnover of city centre parking spaces which supports the viability of the city centre.
- 3.3 This review includes a proposal to revise the Free After Three parking offer made in 2021 to a more balanced approach taking into account the Council's proposal to encourage more sustainable methods of transport to contribute to our net zero promise.
- 3.4 Research that has been carried out on the current Free After Three offer in the City Centre demonstrates that there is no data to support the view that people are visiting the City Centre at 3pm or after to take advantage of business and leisure facilities. The research shows that the majority of customers taking advantage of this offer are those who are arriving earlier in the day and are taking advantage of the reduced parking charges from 3pm as part of their commute or would be visiting the city centre anyway.
- 3.5 The proposal is to amend the Free After Three offer in some locations but to maintain the offer in five of the Council surface car parks (Gorse Road, Charles Street, West Wear Street, Tatham Street and Nile Street). These five car parks are located on the periphery of the City Centre and can be accessed from the main network routes reducing the traffic flow and congestion in and around the City Centre. These car parks are located around the periphery of the city centre with a

walking distance of around 10 minutes to the core centre. A total of approximately 260 spaces will be retained as part of the revised Free After Three offer.

Review of Parking Charges

- 3.14 The last increase of hourly parking charges was undertaken in 2018 when a selected number of parking charges were revised. This proposal is to apply a 10p increase to parking charges in all locations across the City in January 2024 to increase/introduce a £3 daily rate for a Sunday and a Bank Holiday in all City Centre parking locations that don't already have this charge applied and extend on street charges to cover Monday to Sunday. Appendix 1 shows the summary of changes by location.
- 3.15 There will be no increase to the daily rate charges which will remain the same across the City as part of this review.
- 3.16 There will be no increase in charges for City Centre residents or business permits as part of this review.
- 3.17 There will be no increase to the new Riverside car park charges as part of this Review.
- 3.18 Blue badge holders can currently park free and for unlimited time in any of the Council's city centre car parks and on street parking places with the exception of Riverside, St Mary's and Sunnyside car parks which operate a pay on foot system of parking where normal charges apply. It is not proposed to change this arrangement.

Moving Traffic Enforcement

- 3.19 Cabinet approved the adoption of Moving Traffic Enforcement powers at the November 2021 meeting. Four sites have been identified as part of the initial application and as a result a 6-week consultation exercise is being undertaken in line with statutory requirements with a view to making formal application to the Department for Transport as part of Tranche 3 arrangements which is expected to be available around October 2023. The initial sites are as follows:
 - Fawcett Street entry restriction – to support bus journey times and maintain road safety at a busy city centre street with high pedestrian movements;
 - St. Mary's Boulevard yellow box junction – to help alleviate congestion and keep traffic flowing;
 - Durham Road (Mayfair Building) cycle lane – to maintain access and road safety for cyclists; and
 - The Green (Southwick) banned right turn – to regulate traffic movements and road safety at a busy junction.

In line with Government recommendations, the Council will issue warning notices for a 6-month period following implementation. Any driver who contravenes any of the restrictions will be issued with one warning notice to bring further awareness of the changes. However, any further contraventions at the same location may result in a penalty charge notice being issued. The penalty charge notice (again set by national

legislation) will be £70 with a 50% discount if paid within the discount period of 21 days.

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 The short term Free after Three offer currently available Monday to Friday includes all on street parking places, all off street car parks and St Marys and Sunnyside multi storey car parks.
- 4.2 There are currently no charges made in any off street car parks or on street parking locations in the City Centre on a Sunday. Bank Holiday charges only apply at on street locations and flat rates apply in St Marys, Sunnyside and Riverside multi storey car parks. Charges do apply at Sea Front parking facilities.
- 4.3 For those Moving Traffic Enforcement locations detailed in 3.19 above, enforcement currently sits with Northumbria Police but will transfer to the Council under civil enforcement arrangements.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The Parking Strategy determines that the Council should actively encourage a modal shift away from the use of private cars towards more sustainable modes of transport without harming regeneration and the economic activity of the city.

Changing, increasing, reviewing and monitoring parking charges encourages that modal shift and in addition should ensure a reasonable turnover of city centre parking spaces which supports the viability of the city centre.

It is proposed to allow for a period of transition and phase the proposals in following public awareness and engagement with the proposals being introduced January 2024.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Maintain the short-term measure that was introduced in 2021 and do not revise the current parking charges, however none of the benefits set out in the report would be realised and we would not be encouraging a modal shift or more sustainable transport options.

7.0 Impact Analysis

- 7.1 **Equality implications** - Nothing directly associated with this report, the blue badge scheme is unaffected by these proposals. The national legislation allows badge holders to park free of charge in on street locations and the Council also extend this to include all surface car parks.
- 7.2 **Environmental Impact** – Introduction of these measures should have a positive impact on the environment by encouraging modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport.

8.0 Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (i) **Financial Implications:** The revised charges will have a positive revenue impact and will be considered as part of the Council's Medium term Financial Plan. The costs of any additional resource required to support the implementation (if agreed) of Moving Traffic Enforcement powers would be met from the income from penalty charge notices.
- (ii) **Risk Analysis – None**
- (iii) **Employee Implications –** A detailed review of staffing implications would be necessary should the additional powers be introduced. It's envisaged that there will be a change required to back office staffing levels.
- (iv) **Legal Implications –** relevant variation of charges will need to have been completed to implement the new charges.
- (v) **The Public / External Bodies –**

The revision of the Free After Three offer will have minimum impact on those customers visiting the City Centre after 3pm for the evening economy. Parking in the Council's off street car parks and on street parking places remain free after 6pm.

The introduction of a flat rate in all locations on a Sunday and bank holiday of £3 will encourage people to consider their parking options to come into the City Centre and also brings the charge in line with those currently in place on the Sea Front.

9.0 List of Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of Changes by Location

Appendix 1 Summary of changes by location

Car Park	Spaces	Current Charges				Proposed Charges		
		daytime Mon-Fri 8am-3pm	midnight to 8am	Saturday 8am-6pm	Sunday 8am-6pm	daytime (8am-6pm)	Evening (6pm-8am)	Sunday 8am-6pm
St Mary's MSCP	480	£1.50/hr	£0.90/hr	£1.50/hr	£2/day	£1.60/hr	£0.90/hr	£3/day
Sunniside MSCP	653	£1.30/hr (£5/day)	£0.90/hr	£1.30/hr	£2/day	£1.40/hr (£6/day)	£0.90/hr	£3/day
Broughton Street car park	56	£1.30/hr	Free	£1.30/hr	Free	£1.40/hr	Free	£3/day
						daytime (8am-3pm)	Evening (3pm-8am)	
Nile Street car park	49	£1.20/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.20/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.30/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day
West Wear Street car park	40	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.10/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day
Charles Street car park	28	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.10/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day
Tatham Street car park	94	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£1.10/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day
Gorse Road car park	54	£0.80/hr (£5/day)	Free	£0.80/hr (£5/day)	Free	£0.90/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day
High Street West car park (Subject to redev 2024)	35	£0.90/hr	Free	£0.90/hr	Free	£1.00/hr (£5/day)	Free	£3/day

Summary of Changes by Location			
On Street Parking places	Spaces	Current Charges (Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm),	Proposed Charges (All Days 8am-6pm)
Bridge Street	4	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Burdon Road	13	70p for 30 minutes or part thereof	80p for 30 minutes or part thereof
Charles Street	10	£1.00 per hour or part thereof	£1.10 per hour or part thereof
Derwent Street	6	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Foyle Street	12	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Frederick Street	33	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Green Terrace	10	£1.00 per hour or part thereof	£1.10 per hour or part thereof
High Street West	12	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
John Street	5	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Laura Street	10	£1.30 per hour or part thereof	£1.40 per hour or part thereof
Murton Street	9	£1.10 per hour or part thereof	£1.20 per hour or part thereof
Norfolk Street	5	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Olive Street	6	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
St Thomas Street	7	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Toward Road	9	80p for 30 minutes or part thereof	90p for 30 minutes or part thereof
Villiers Street	8	90p per hour or part thereof	£1.00 per hour or part thereof
West Sunnyside	9	£1.00 for 30 minutes or part thereof	£1.10 for 30 minutes or part thereof
Other Locations			
Car Park	Spaces	Current Charges	Proposed Charges
		Monday to Sunday	Monday to Sunday
Sheepfolds Car Park	60	50p per hour / £3 All Day	No Change
Marine Walk Car Park	50	60p per hour /£3 All Day	70p per hour £3 All Day
Harbour View Car Park	128	60p per hour /£3 All Day	70p per hour £3 All Day
Dykelds Road Car Park	92	70p per hour /£3 All Day	80p per hour £3 All Day
On Street	Spaces	Current Charges	Proposed Charges
		Monday to Sunday	Monday to Sunday
Whitburn Road	68	70p per hour /£3 All Day	80p per hour £3 All Day
Newcastle Road	21	60p per hour /£3 all day	70p per hour or part thereof or £3 all day
Kayll Road	29	70p per hour /£3 All day	80p per hour £3 All day
Tunstall Terrace	13	80p per hour / £4 all day	90p per hour or part thereof or £4 all day
Tunstall Terrace West	10	80p per hour/ £4 all day	90p per hour or part thereof or £4 all day
Railway Row	7	70p per hour / £3 all day	80p per hour or part thereof or £3 all day
Johnson Street	13	70p per hour / £3 all day	80p per hour or part thereof or £3 all day