

AGENDA ITEM NO 8

REPORT NO 139/19

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 APRIL 2019

AMENDMENT TO SHORT STAY OFF STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

Following requests from local Members, the Committee are asked to consider increasing the time restrictions for short stay off-street car parks along with associated software changes.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:

- i) agrees the change of time restrictions from 2 to 4 hours in the short stay car parks as set out in **Appendix 1**;
- ii) notes the changes to software, and specifically to remove the requirement on all payment machines to insert Vehicle Registration Mark (VRM/number plate details)

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 -2030 and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy

PLACE

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Off street car parks in Angus are a mix of short stay 2 hours with no return permitted within a further 2 hours; and long stay. A list of all the off street car parks where charges apply is given in **Appendix 2**. As detailed in the Angus Council Parking Policy (reference Report No. 400/16), the balance of short stay/long stay enables management of the parking spaces, with traditionally those nearer the towns centres being short stay. This provides convenience for shoppers and a turnover for retailers, and those slightly further away from town centres being more suitable for longer duration parking.

3.2 Local Members in some wards have raised the issue, following comments from their constituents, that the short stay car parking time limits have restricted residents attending events in the town centres such as, but not limited to, funerals and have requested an extension of the time limits to 4 hours.

3.3 The 2 hour limitations, and no return for 2 hours, were introduced in 1996 in Report No. 695/96.

3.4 There is a perceived time delay and inconvenience of requiring users to enter their Vehicle Registration Mark (VRM/number plate details) when purchasing a pay and display ticket at

the parking achiness. The VRM is used to reduce the risk of tickets being transferred from user to user. When implemented, the assessment of risk of fraudulent use by transferring tickets between vehicles was considered sufficient to merit the requirement for VRM details to be entered. The naming of individual car parks on each ticket also prevents transferring tickets between locations.

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Convenor of Communities contacted all local Members in April 2019 seeking views on the potential changes to the time restrictions for the short stay off street car parks.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the time period for staying in the short stay off street car parks is amended to allow parking up to 4 hours with no return permitted within a further 2 hours for all the car parks in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 The changes will require amending the software controlling the parking meters and signage in the appropriate car parks with the costs as set out in the Financial Implications.
- 4.4 The charges for the short term car parks would remain at £1/hour as per the existing charging regime. The introduction of the change to the time restriction for short stay off-street car parks would require a Notice under the Local Authorities' Variation of Charges at Off-street and Designated Parking Places (Notice Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1997, which takes 21 days.
- 4.5 In addition, as the 2 hour maximum stay is detailed in the definition of the Traffic Regulation Order covering all Angus Council car parks, a variation to the Order would be required. The variation would need to be consulted upon and advertised, which would take a minimum of one month from approval to proceed. If no objections are received in the 21 day advertising period then the Order can be made immediately. If objections are received then a further committee report and approval would be required. This would extend the implementation period
- 4.6 At the time of making the above software changes, the opportunity can be taken to remove the requirement for users to enter their VRM when purchasing a pay and display ticket. Removal of the VRM does introduce some risk of transference of tickets between vehicles although this risk is considered low. If in practice the transference of tickets is evident as a practice the VRM input could be reintroduced by a further change to the software in the parking meters.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The changes and installation of the software in the meters along with the signage changes and advertising of the Notice required is estimated at a maximum of £5,550, (dependant on number of short stay car parks where time restrictions are amended) which would be met from the off street car parking income.
- 5.2 The proposed changes do introduce more flexibility and convenience to users and as such it is possible that this will lead to increased patronage of off-street car parks given customer feedback. Whilst the actual increase in income cannot be estimated, it is considered reasonable that the costs of these changes should be met from the off- street car parking income.

NOTE: The background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 695/96 - Car Parks –Review of Operation – Roads Committee – 29 August 1996
- Report No 400/16 - Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Update – Communities Committee – 15 November 2016

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Short Stay Off Street Car Parks By Burgh

Appendix 2 - Off Street Car Parks By Burgh

SHORT STAY OFF STREET CAR PARKS BY BURGH

Arbroath

North Port
West Abbey Street

Brechin

Church Street
Maisondieu Lane East
Market Street

Carnoustie

High Street

Forfar

Green Street

Kirriemuir

Reform Street

Montrose

Baltic Street

OFF STREET CAR PARKS BY BURGH**Arbroath**

Long stay)

Shore
 Ladybridge Street
 Hill Street-High Street
 Gravesend
 Guthrie Port

Helen Street
 Leonard Street
 Millgate-North Grimsby
 Stanley Street

Short stay

North Port
 West Abbey Street

Brechin

Long stay

City Road South End
 City Road West Side
 Maisondieu Lane West

Short stay

Church Street
 Maisondieu Lane East
 Market Street

Carnoustie

Long stay

Links Avenue
 Park Avenue

Short stay

High Street

Forfar

Long stay

East Greens
 Myre
 Myre Road

Old Halkerton Road
 St James Road
 West High Street

Short stay

Green Street

Kirriemuir

Long stay

Bellies Brae
 Glengate

Short stay

Reform Street

Montrose

Long stay

Lower Hall Street
 Murray Lane

Short stay

Baltic Street