

Portfolio Holder Decision

NWBC Off-street Parking Order 2021

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	10 December 2021
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning consents to the making of the North Warwickshire Borough Council Off-Street Parking Order 2021 by North Warwickshire Borough Council.

2. Reasons for decisions

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) is proposing to introduce changes to its Off-Street Parking Order which will result in amendments to car parks operated and maintained by NWBC.

The consent of the County Council is required under section 39 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. By virtue of section 32 of that Act, off-street car parks may be provided for the purpose of relieving or preventing congestion of traffic.

In deciding whether or not to exercise its power to consent (or to withhold consent), the Council is required to have regard to the matters set out in section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Section 122(1) requires the Council to exercise the functions conferred on it (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in section 122(2)) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

The matters to which the Council must have regard under section 122(2) are:-

- The desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises
- The effect on the amenities of any locality affected and the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run
- The national air quality strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environmental

Protection Act 1995

- The importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles
- And any other matters appearing to the Council to be relevant.

3. Background information

NWBC is proposing to make amendments to the parking order for the following reasons:

- To operate under a civil parking enforcement (CPE) process
- To update the parking areas covered by the previous order (2015)
- To introduce parking charges in some NWBC controlled car parks
- To introduce at least one hour's free parking in all car parks (two hours free parking in the majority of car parks)
- Three hours free parking in car parks for blue badge holders
- To install electric vehicle charging points in some car parks

Appendix A contains the OSPO (Off Street Parking Order) Statement of Reasons.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Warwickshire County Council has applied to the Department for Transport for approval to implement CPE in the Borough of North Warwickshire area. The introduction of CPE in North Warwickshire will result in the management of on-street parking by civil parking enforcement throughout the entire county. This will increase consistency of approach throughout Warwickshire and reduce the amount of police time currently taken up by parking enforcement.

Contingent on the introduction of CPE in North Warwickshire for on-street parking is the inclusion of NWBC managed off-street parking places within the civil enforcement process.

New parking charges

The full details of the charging proposals are contained in **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** contains the draft Order itself.

NWBC intends to offer free parking for **one hour** as a minimum in all of its car parks. However, almost all of its car parks will provide a minimum of **two hours** free parking.

Electric vehicle parking will not be free of charge in NWBC managed car parks.

Season tickets for a period of three months (valid in any NWBC car park) will be available to purchase at an initial cost of £150 (a saving of up to one third of the full cost for long stay users).

Disabled motorists in possession of a Blue Badge may park for free in any NWBC car park for a period of up to three hours.

Warwickshire's LTP3 states that the use of on-street parking charges will be considered where appropriate in order to encourage the use of other sustainable modes of transport, Park and Ride or off-street car parks in preference to on-street. Where car park charges are in place, WCC will work with district and borough car park managers to operate a co-ordinated approach which sets charges at a rate which encourages off-street parking. There is currently no charge for on-street parking in North Warwickshire.

NWBC's decision to provide a minimum of two hours' free parking in the vast majority of its car parks before applying charges is unlikely to result in significantly increased on-street parking in the near future. WCC will continue to work closely with NWBC to manage parking demand both on and off-street in order to reduce network congestion and encourage sustainable transport choices.

Once a decision has been made by the Portfolio Holder the decision document will be sent immediately to NWBC via email.

4. Financial implications

There are no financial implications for Warwickshire County Council arising from NWBC's proposals.

WCC will work with its partners in the district and borough councils to manage parking provision, availability and choice throughout the county. This will include decisions on waiting restrictions and parking charges.

5. Environmental implications

The proposed introduction of electric vehicle chargepoints in NWBC car parks is designed to promote their uptake, and this is a welcome proposal. There are air quality management areas in all five district and borough councils owing to an excess of nitrogen dioxide, an exhaust gas from fossil-fuel powered cars. A switch to electric vehicles will have a beneficial impact on air quality by helping to reduce emissions of this gas and assist with the government's target of carbon neutrality by 2050.

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Assistant Director	David Ayton-Hill
Lead Director	Mark Ryder
Lead Member	Cllr Wallace Redford

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the	No

budget and policy framework?	
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List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed
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Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wallace Redford

Corporate Board – n/a

Legal – Ian Marriott; Serena Cammish

Finance – Caroline Jones

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse
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Councillors – Clarke, Chilvers, Fradgley & D’Arcy

Local Member(s): Cllrs Marian Humphreys; Wright; Singh; Jenns; Watson; Bell; Dave Humphreys
