

**REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: NELSON COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 3 JULY 2017**

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## **REVIEW OF COUNCIL-OWNED CAR PARKS WITHIN NELSON**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise members of a report which went to the Executive on 25 May 2017 with regard to a review of Council-owned car parks in the borough and for members to consider matters regarding various Nelson car parks.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That members note a recent report to the Executive regarding a review of Council-owned car parks in the borough and that consideration be given to the following recommendations:
  - (a) That members note that Liberata Property Services have been instructed to investigate the car parks which have been recommended for disposal, transfer or lease as set out in the report.
  - (b) That members consider amending the parking restriction on The Palace Car Park from short-stay disc parking to long-stay.
  - (c) That members consider increasing the residents-only permit charge for Cuba Street Car Park, Nelson, from £30 to £50 per annum from February 2018.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To provide a framework on which to decrease costs and increase income on public car parks in Nelson.
- (2) To increase the usage of the under-utilised Palace Car Park in Nelson town centre.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report to the Executive on 25 May 2017 on the current usage, cost, condition and management for all 47 Council-owned car parks in

the borough. The report also recommended future arrangements for management including retention, retention with a proposal for an alternative use or disposal.

In respect to Nelson, it was resolved:

- (1) That the current provision and costs for car parks in Pendle be noted.
- (2) That the recommendations... regarding the future provision of each car park be noted.
- (3) That, subject to the above, Liberata Property Services be instructed to investigate the car parks which have been recommended for disposal, transfer or lease.
- (4) That the introduction of business/resident permits on the relevant car parks together with the suggested charge for this, be agreed and a further report be presented to Nelson, Colne and West Craven Area Committees on this issue.
- (6) That it be agreed that The Palace Car Park in Nelson be changed from short-stay to long-stay and that a report be submitted to Nelson Committee on this.
- (7) That the residents-only permit charge on Cuba Street Car Park, Nelson, be increased from £30 per annum to £50 as of February 2018 and a report be submitted to Nelson Committee via Management Team.

## **ISSUE**

2. The issues specifically relating to Nelson car parks are set out below.
3. Liberata Property Services will be looking at the disposal, transfer or lease of Garden Street Car Park, Netherfield Road Car Park and Stanley Street Car Park and a report will come to this Committee from Liberata Property Services at a later date.
4. It has been recognised that many of the short-stay car parks in Nelson town centre are used by office workers who move their vehicles every two and a half hours. As well as this, officers receive regular complaints regarding the lack of long-stay town centre parking. Rather than having office workers continuously moving their cars, the Council could benefit financially from the introduction of business permits. There is in addition scope to provide workplace parking to attract businesses to the town centre. It is suggested that initially we offer 50 permits, with a review in 12 months' time, and that £100 (including VAT) is a suitable charge for an annual permit.
5. In addition to this, members are asked to consider offering business permits for the whole of Rigby Street Car Park and Sagar Street Car Park at the suggested same charge. Both car parks fill up very quickly in the morning. If the car parks were assigned as business permit-only, it would guarantee parking for those who regularly use these car parks and also free up short-stay parking (see paragraph 4 regarding office workers moving their cars every two and a half hours) in the vicinity.
6. Members are asked to consider changing the use of The Palace Car Park in Nelson town centre from short-stay use to long-stay. This car park is well under-utilised and long-stay parking would ensure a higher patronage through the working week, thereby improving the look of this gateway area into the town centre.
7. Members are asked to consider increasing the residents-only permit charge on Cuba Street Car Park, Nelson, from £30 per annum to £50 as of February 2018.

## CONCLUSION

8. Despite the cost of car parking reducing over the years, we are still in a position where we need to make savings where possible, not only to reduce costs but also to be in a better position for the future viability of the retained Nelson car parks.
9. It is therefore recommended that:
  - further investigation is carried out on three car parks with the potential for disposal, transfer or lease;
  - the introduction of business/residents permit parking be considered;
  - the Palace Car Park be changed from short-stay disc parking to long-stay; and
  - the residents' permit charge for Cuba Street Car Park be increased from £30 to £50 as of February 2018.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** The Council does not currently have a policy on renting out long-term car parking spaces.

**Financial:** As detailed within the report.

**Legal:** The introduction of business permits would not affect the Council's Off-Street Parking Order.

**Risk Management:** The Council does not accept liability for any damage to vehicles whilst parked on any of the public car parks. Drivers park at their own risk.

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from this report.

**Sustainability:** By charging rent to users of specific bays on public car parks, the Council can ensure an income which will assist with the continued maintenance of the car parks.

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this report.

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from this report.

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Plans

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Executive on 25 May 2017: Review of Council-Owned Car parks within the Borough.