

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 3RD
MARCH, 2020

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 24TH FEBRUARY, 2020

**“C247 CAR PARKING – GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CHARGES (NST/ER)
(SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

There was a requirement to ensure the best possible access to the Vale’s commercial and tourist areas. One way of doing this was by having appropriate public transport and active travel networks in place and ensuring that car parking spaces were available for those who needed them most.

When managed properly, car parking could benefit the economic activity of areas that it served. It facilitated good access to towns and amenities for residents, workers, shoppers and visitors. There was a need to invest in adequate car parking for those who wanted to visit the Vale of Glamorgan and those who worked within resorts and town centres. It was not simply about maximising car parking space, it was more about ensuring that car parks were well maintained and are accessible as well as ensuring that there were a range of options available to meet short and long stay visitors, businesses and employees in a way that did not detract from the economic viability and vitality of an area.

The report outlined the guiding principles and charging regimes for car parks and charges following consideration of the comments received to the consultation undertaken on Capita's Draft Parking Strategy in the Summer of 2018 and reviews of a previous Draft Parking Policy undertaken by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 4th April, 2019 and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11th April, 2019.

The guiding principles and charging regimes proposed were summarised as follows:

Town Centre Car Parks

ALL FREE except at the proposed Shoppers’ Car parks at Wyndham Street, Barry and Town Hall Cowbridge. Charges proposed for Shoppers’ Car Parks up to 2 hours FREE, up to 4 hours £2.00, and all day £6.00. Tariffs applicable 6 days per week Monday-Saturday from 8am to 6pm with blue badge holders free.

NO CHARGES were proposed for on-street car parking within any of the town centres.

The Llantwit Major car parks were subject to separate consideration and discussions with Llantwit Major Town Council and were not covered by the report.

Resort and Coastal Car Parks

NO CHARGES were proposed for on street car parking at any of the resorts.

Resort car park charges (Barry Island – Southerndown – Ogmores by Sea) would remain as they were for the summer months but would apply all year round. (Resort car parks would not be subject to any seasonal variation in tariff reflecting their all year-round use). Late afternoon and early evening tariffs would continue to apply.

Annual Permits would be available for coastal resort car parks for the first time at a cost of £50 for 6 months and £100 for 12 months. Disabled persons with blue badges would park for free.

Bus and coach parking at resorts would be set at £30.00 all day.

Other coastal (non-resort) car parks at Barry (Cold Knap and Bron y Mor), Llantwit Major Cwm Colhuw, Penarth Cliff Walk, Ogmores by Sea (Portabello), West Farm Southerndown and Llwyn Passat Penarth are used by a mix of residents and visitors to the area and were largely seasonal in demand. Therefore, NO CHARGES were proposed at these car parks.

Country Parks Car Parks

NO CHARGES were proposed until after 10.00 am in Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry Country Park. After 10.00 am until 8.00 pm from 1st March to 30th September and until 5.00 pm from 1st October to end of February charges were proposed with up to 2 hours parking for £1.00, up to 4 hours, £2.00 and £4.00 all day. Bus and coach parking at £30.00 all day. Parking permits would be available for 6 months at £30 or £50 per annum which could be used at either Country Park. Disabled persons with blue badges would park for free.

Waiting Restrictions and Traffic Regulations

No charges or changes to the current Residents Parking Permit Policy were proposed for 2020/21 which would remain FREE to eligible residents.

All existing Traffic Regulations would remain in force unless subject to separate consideration and consultation.

It was not proposed to introduce any additional traffic regulations to prevent displacement parking in the town centres or the areas surrounding the Country Parks. The need or otherwise for additional measures would be assessed as necessary in due course. In the interim, appropriate signing would be installed in residential areas in the immediate vicinity of Cosmeston Country Park and Barry Island to deter displacement parking.

A further report would be presented to Cabinet providing an update on enforcement and to consider if any further residential parking requirements were required.

Ways to Pay and Exemptions

The report proposed to use modern solar powered 'Pay and Display' Machines with coins and chip / pin / contactless options. Digital payment methods including a Parking App would also be improved through investment in new technology. Consideration was also to be given to installing electric charging points within car parks and on street.

Leisure Centres

Leisure Centre Car Parks at Barry, Cowbridge and Penarth were subject to separate discussions with Legacy Leisure as part of the ongoing contract negotiations. Legacy Leisure had requested the introduction of controls in these car parks to favour leisure centre users and this would be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in the near future.

Councillor Burnett stated that the report was a Joint Cabinet report as the issues were influenced by a large number of factors including the needs of resorts, country parks, resident and business requirements, employers, visitors and shoppers.

It had been important to take the time to review the previous data, decisions and Scrutiny considerations. The detail would once again go to Scrutiny for completeness and Cabinet welcomed their engagement.

There may be issues concerning resident parking and displacement that would be the subject of a future report.

Councillor King added that the first Scrutiny meeting would take place on 25th February, 2020. Going forward there would be a focus on better enforcement as well as boosting footfall to traders.

Councillor Gray felt it was positive to have a range of free parking options and important to simplify matters and make matters clearer for people visiting the area, having listened to feedback.

Councillor More also referred to there being reasonable annual permits available, better enforcement going forward and any issues with displacement would also be addressed going forward. There would also be further discussions with Llantwit Major Town Council and Leisure Centre users parking in Barry, Cowbridge and Penarth.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the proposed Car Parking – Guiding Principles and Charges and Equality Impact Assessment as attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees for consideration.
- (3) T H A T following consideration by the Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees, the Proposed Car Parking – Guiding Principles and Charges for 2020/2021 and Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be further considered by Cabinet.
- (4) T H A T, subject to consideration by the Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet consider a delegation to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, the Managing Director and Head of Finance to source the most economically advantageous method of financing the purchase and installation of equipment for car parks as required to support the implementation of this Policy.
- (5) T H A T a further report be received by Cabinet providing an update on Enforcement of Parking in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (6) T H A T a further report be received by Cabinet detailing the arrangements for improving Leisure Centre users parking in Barry, Cowbridge and Penarth.
- (7) T H A T a further report be received in relation to parking arrangements in Llantwit Major, following the conclusion of discussions with Llantwit Major Town Council.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To advise Cabinet of the proposed Car Parking – Guiding Principles and Charges for 2020/21 and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment.
- (2) To ensure that the views of the relevant Scrutiny Committees are considered prior to a decision being taken by Cabinet on the final Car Parking- Guiding Principles and Charges for 2020/2021.
- (3) To further consider the Car Parking – Guiding Principles and Charges for 2020/21 and Equality Impact Assessment.
- (4) To ensure that the infrastructure required to facilitate charging is sought in the most economically advantageous way.

- (5) To ensure parking enforcement matches the needs of the approved parking proposals.
- (6) To obtain the agreement of Cabinet for the introduction of new parking controls at these locations.
- (7) To advise Cabinet of arrangements in Llantwit Major.”