

Please note this is a Part 1 (Public) report and will be published on the website any Part 2 (Confidential) information should be included in a separate document as an Appendix.

### EMERGENCY DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISION

In accordance with the Leaders decision and noted by Cabinet on 25/03/2020 to delegate to the Chief Executive any executive decision in this COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency or that is urgent or that would be necessary or expedient, or which would otherwise protect the Council's interests, including key decisions.

## South Lakeland District Council

### Emergency Delegated Executive Decision

# Reintroduction of car parking charges, patrols, monitoring and enforcement in the authority's car parks.

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Reference: 008

#### Reason for emergency

Chief Executive received emergency delegated executive decision making powers on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It is considered that this decision is necessary or arises from the COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency. The matter is urgent, necessary and expedient and is needed to protect the Council's interests.

In line with the government's latest advice regarding the reopening of non-essential retail premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, it is proposed that car parking charges, patrols, monitoring and enforcement will recommence in all the authorities public car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

If we were to maintain the temporary free parking arrangements introduced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, at a time that other car park operators have recommenced charging and non-essential shops and the high streets are reopening this could have the negative consequence and significant risk that visitors to the area, choose our free parking offer and the ability to manage social distancing would be severely compromised and Public Health Risks increased. Additionally, this could have a consequence that the car parks are utilised by residents and commuters and that little churn would result which would impact visitors and shoppers from finding available spaces. This in turn would impact negatively on the success of attracting shoppers back to the high street

The Council has no Cabinet meeting planned prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to provide for the decision to be taken the next scheduled virtual meeting being the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

This is a Key Decision Yes (**A key decision means an executive decision which, in relation to an executive function, has a significant effect on communities in two or more Wards of the Council and/or is likely to result in the Authority incurring expenditure or making savings above £100,000**)

**Portfolio:** Cllr Eric Morrell – Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio Holder

**Decision Maker:** Chief Executive

**Report Author:** Simon Rowley – Director of Customer and Commercial Services

**Wards:** Lakes and Windermere and Bowness Wards

**Forward Plan:** Exemption received

## **1.0 Expected Outcome and Reasons for Proposed Decision**

The reintroduction of car parking charges in all the Authorities car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and recommencement of patrols, monitoring and enforcement in all the Authorities car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 the Government introduced `lock down` measures across the country in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Cabinet made a decision to no longer actively patrol, monitor or enforce within its public car parks, and placed signage on its pay and display machines to this effect. This decision was for an initial 3 weeks reviewable on the 13<sup>th</sup> April in line with the government's published review date on restrictions. Following the initial review date, no changes were made and the arrangements continued.

However in light of the Government's `Covid-19 Recovery Strategy`, released on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, entitled `Our Plan to Rebuild`, which included the lifting of travel restriction from those only in certain prescribed circumstances to a position of permitting "people may drive to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance " Consultation with partner organisations took place, and these partner organisations made decisions to recommence charging in their public car parks within the Lake District National Park boundaries commencing on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. If we were to maintain the temporary free parking arrangements introduced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 then there is a significant risk of visitors choosing our free parking offer and the ability to manage social distancing would be severely compromised and Public Health Risks increased. Additionally, with the reopening of the high streets and non-essential shops, this could have a consequence that the car parks are utilised by residents and commuters and that little churn would result which would impact visitors and shoppers from finding available spaces. This in turn would impact negatively on the success of attracting shoppers back to the high street.

In line with the government's latest advice regarding the reopening of non-essential retail premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, it is proposed that car parking charges, patrols, monitoring and enforcement will recommence in all the authorities public car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Appropriate social distancing signage and markings will be installed in all the authorities' car parks, including hand sanitising stations located next to pay and display machines, and encouragement to pay for parking via contactless methods.

Free parking for those on duty as an NHS staff member, health or social care worker, or NHS Volunteer Responder will still be supported via special parking pass available from their employer.

Previous car park offers will be available to users including the early bird offers and reduced hourly rates and daily prices on some car parks, and the full range of permits.

## **2.0 Proposed Decision**

### **2.1 It is recommended that the Chief Executive:-**

**(1) Agrees to reintroduce Car Parking charges in the authorities Car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, and**

**(2) Agrees to the recommencement of patrols, monitoring and enforcement in all the authorities car parks from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

### **3.0 Background and Proposals**

#### **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 The Portfolio holder has been consulted and is supportive of the proposals. Members of the Cabinet have also been consulted.

Other car park operators within the Lake District National Park including the LDNPA, National Trust, United Utilities and Allerdale District Council, have been consulted and have all confirmed that they will be recommending charging in their car parks.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 Not to charge within our car parks at the current time. With the reopening of the high streets and non-essential shops, this could have a consequence that the car parks are utilised by residents and commuters and that little churn would result which would impact visitors and shoppers from finding available spaces. This in turn would impact negatively on the success of attracting shoppers back to the high street, and is therefore not recommended.

#### **6.0 Links to Council Priorities**

6.1 The safe management and operations of our car parks contributes to the Council's priorities of working across boundaries to deliver economic growth and Delivering balanced communities.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

7.1. The reintroduction will increase the Council's revenue from car parking. Car parking is the Council's largest source of income from fees and charges with income of £4.6m included in the budget approved for 2020/21 in February 2020. It is projected the Council will have seen a reduction of £1.2m in car parking charges over the first 3-months of the financial year. It is not expected that car parking income will immediately return to pre-Covid levels for many months.

7.1.2 The Government has supported Council's with new grants to cover additional cost but there has been no grant to assist with lost income. Therefore the income foregone from car parking fees being suspended will need to be offset by use of reserves. This is part of the £2.0m use of General Reserve to meet the cost of Covid-19 approved by Cabinet on 20 May 2020. As the Council only holds reserves to meet unexpected costs, such as flooding or pandemic, using the reserves in 2020/21 will require either additional income or additional savings in future years to rebuild the reserves to their required level. Therefore, the re-introduction of car park charges will help to reduce future cost pressures.

##### **Human Resources**

7.2 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

##### **Legal**

7.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

##### **Health, Social, Economic and Environmental**

7.4 Have you completed an Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: It is not considered applicable.

### Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: It is not considered applicable.

### Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Lack of available spaces in town centres due to car parks being occupied by commuters and residents with no churn throughout the day.	Lack of spaces available will deter visitors and shoppers to our towns , with consequent negative impact on businesses.	Reintroduce parking charges and patrols , monitoring and enforcement .

### Contact Officers

Sion Thomas - Operational lead for Delivery and Commercial Services

Simon Rowley – Director of Customer and Commercial Services

### Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
HM Government – Our plan to rebuild : The UK Government's Covid-19 recovery strategy	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Signature and Date ( or email confirmation)</b>
Chief Executive	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Or such person as delegated by the Chief Executive in writing	
<b>In consultation with</b>	
The Leader of the Council	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
And Relevant Portfolio Holder	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
CMT Directors	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
The following interests were declared – disclosable pecuniary interest or other or none	None

<p><i>Due to COVID 19 and Government announcements , it has not been possible for this Key decision to be included in a Forward Plan at least 28 clear days before the decision was to be made. It is not possible to comply with the General Exemption procedure.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution - Rules of Procedure – Access to Information Rules – Paragraph 16, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Hughes) has</i></p>	Yes
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<p><i>agreed that the taking of the decision is urgent and could not reasonably be deferred because for the reasons outlined in this report and the timescales required to protect the public/business interest and to comply with Government advice.</i></p> <p><b><i>This being “special urgency”</i></b></p>	
<p><i>In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution – Rules of Procedure – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules - paragraph 16(j), the Chairman of the Council (Cllr Coleman) agrees that this decision is reasonable in all the circumstances and that it is treated as urgent for the reasons outlined above and, therefore, the decision is <b>exempt from call-in.</b></i></p>	<p>Yes</p>