

To: LEADERSHIP BOARD

On: 20TH FEBRUARY 2019

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: REVIEW OF CAR PARKING IN PAISLEY TOWN CENTRE

1. Summary

- 1.1 At the Council meeting of 13 December 2018, the Council discussed a motion to pilot a free three hours period of parking in Paisley Town Centre.
- 1.2 Council agreed that the parking arrangements in Paisley Town Centre be reviewed together with the financial implications, with a report being brought prior to the Council meeting of 28th February 2019. The review was to include:
 - Consideration of 3 hours free parking,
 - The provision of electric charging points,
 - Disabled parking spaces and
 - Improved car park signage
- 1.3 A desktop review has commenced looking at the financial, legal, economic and road safety considerations and implications of providing a period of 3 hour free parking in on and off-street car parking locations. In addition, the review has looked at the electric vehicle charging provision, disabled parking bay provision and locations and town centre car park signage.
- 1.4 Paisley Town Centre has approximately 2,140 on and off-street car parking spaces available for the public to park in. These car parking spaces are either owned by Renfrewshire Council (1,240), or private operators Paisley and Piazza shopping centres, Paisley Gilmour Street, Weighhouse Close; all of which are chargeable for the public to park in. There are also a number of free on and off-street car park locations on the periphery of the town centre.

- 1.5 The review proposes to create a working group involving businesses, the Council, private car park operators, and associated shopping centres in Paisley Town Centre. The working group will seek to have both officers and Elected Members representation from the Council. The remit of the working group will be to consider the review as set out at 1.2 above and the financial, economic and legal considerations and implications of the current Paisley Town Centre car parking policy and proposed alternatives.
 - 1.6 Paisley car parking management arrangements and parking tariffs have applied to Paisley Town Centre since the 1970's. These arrangements have enabled the regulation of the road space and car parks for the safe flow of pedestrians, free flow of traffic and efficient use of parking spaces.
 - 1.7 There are currently two electric charging bays, at the entrance to Renfrewshire House, within the Council's controlled on and off-street parking locations in Paisley Town Centre. Following successful submission to the Scottish Government the Council has been awarded funding to install electric charging points in public car parks across Renfrewshire. It is proposed through 2019 to install 26 charging points across 4 public car parks in Paisley Town Centre as set out below in section 6 of this report. The Council does not have a formal Policy position on tariff charges for those parking and charging electric vehicles within Zones 1 – 3 of Paisley Town Centre, a proposed Policy position of not charging those vehicle owners who are charging their electric vehicles is put forward for consideration.
 - 1.8 The review has looked at the provision of Disabled Parking Spaces across Paisley Town Centre where there are currently 109 Council enforced, on and off-street car parking spaces available. Through this aspect of the review it was identified that there was no provision in 4 car parks in the Town Centre and as a result it is proposed that a further 4 number of disabled parking bays are proposed for creation in 2019, in the Hunter St (upper), School Wynd, Oakshaw and Maxwell Street car parks, through the promotion of an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order.
 - 1.9 A review of Paisley Town Centre Car Park signage was undertaken in 2016 with additional directional signage to car parks included within general town centre signage. The review of car parking in Paisley Town Centre has identified the need for improved wayfinding within the town centre to allow visitors to utilise the car parks which are underutilised within the town centre. As part of the investment in Public Realm and Transportation improvements approved by the Leadership Board in September 2018, there will be a particular focus on improving parking signage, particularly the introduction of dynamic signage. Discussion on these proposals will form part of the remit of the working group.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leadership Board:

- 2.1 Notes the current parking provision available within Paisley Town Centre and the income generated by the Council through the Council Car Park Policy.
 - 2.2 Agrees to establish a working group to discuss and review the parking provision within Paisley Town Centre as set out in section 4 of the report, and that the leaders of the three largest Political groups advise the Head of Corporate Governance by 28th February of their representative on the working group.
 - 2.3 Agrees that the officer representation on the working group shall be one senior officer each from the Environment and Infrastructure and the Regeneration Services.
 - 2.4 Notes the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure as set out in section 5 and agrees to introduce a no-cost tariff for those vehicles parked and being charged within an off-street electric vehicle charging bay within Zones 1 - 3 of Paisley Town Centre.
 - 2.5 Notes the introduction of additional disabled car parking bays as set out in section 6 of the report.
 - 2.6 Notes the improvement and modernisation of car park signage in addition to discussion through the working group, will be taken forward over 2019 – 2021 as part of the Public Realm and Transportation improvements in Paisley Town Centre.
 - 2.7 Notes that updates on the outputs from the working group will be brought back to a future Leadership Board for consideration.
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3.0 Background

3.1 Car Parking Spaces and Charges in Paisley Town Centre

- 3.1.1 There are over 2,100 tariff paying on and off street car parking spaces in Paisley Town Centre. The Council controls 1,240 car parking spaces in Paisley town centre (Zone 1 to 3) - 235 on street spaces and 1,015 in car park spaces over 19 car parks. There are 838 privately operated car parking spaces in Paisley town centre. 530 spaces at the Paisley centre and 338 spaces at the Piazza centre and 75 park and ride spaces at Paisley Gilmour Street Station.
- 3.1.2 There is a significant supply of free on and off-street car parking options available for car users on the periphery of the town centre – eg. Morrisons supermarket at Lonend, West College Scotland campus at Renfrew Road (no permit system), the new Wallneuk retail development as well as numerous streets where car parking is

free of charge with no restrictions. This overall supply is far greater in total numbers than that available within the Council controlled parking of 1,200 spaces.

3.2 Car Parking Charges – Private

- 3.2.1 The charges set by the private car parking operators in Paisley Town Centre are set out below:

Paisley centre	£1.50 for 2 hours up to £5.00 for all day
Piazza centre	£1.00 per hour up to £5.00 for all day
Weighhouse Close	60p per hour up to £4 for all day
Gilmour Street Station	£3 per day

3.3 Council's Parking Policy in Paisley Town Centre

- 3.3.1 The Car Parking tariffs covering Paisley Town Centre are divided into 3 zones as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, applicable from 8am to 6.15pm Monday – Friday. Free resident and business parking permits for those residents living in Zones 2 & 3 of the Town Centre. (No business parking permits but free resident parking permits limited to one per household in Zone 1).

- 3.3.2 Free on-street and off-street parking is provided on a Saturday and Sundays in Paisley Town Centre. Free weekend parking and free resident and business parking permits reaffirmed at the November 2017 and May 2018 Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Boards.

- 3.3.3 The Council car parking tariffs are set out below and last reviewed and set at the Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board in November 2017.

On-Street Zone 1	£0.50 for 30minutes up to £2.00 for 2 hours
On-Street Zone 2 & 3	£0.40 for 30minutes up to £2.60 for 4 hours
Short Stay Car Park	£0.90 per hour – up to £5.50 for all day
Long Stay Car Park Tier 1	£0.60 per 2 hours – up to £2.40 for all day
Long Stay Car Park Tier 2	£0.90 per 2 hours – up to £3.50 for all day

3.4 Decriminalised Parking

Renfrewshire is known as a special parking area where it has applied to the Scottish Government to enforce parking restrictions. This is commonly referred to as 'decriminalised parking enforcement' as Police Scotland do not have an enforcement role. One of the conditions of decriminalised Policy required by the Scottish Government is that the scheme pays for itself, with the Council making an annual return to the Scottish Government that the scheme operates at no cost to the Council. Traffic Regulation Orders control parking locations and movement around the town centre including single yellow and double yellow line restrictions.

- 3.4.1 The government introduced The Road Traffic Act 1991 to give powers to local authorities to enforce parking restrictions, where beforehand this could only be done by the Police's Traffic Wardens. This puts the ability to both introduce traffic

regulation orders, and enforce them, in the hands of the Council. This allowed the Council a greater degree of control over parking Policy than ever before.

3.5 Pedestrian and Vehicle Movements

- 3.5.1 Renfrewshire's Parking Policy provides parking spaces and yellow line restrictions through the associated traffic regulation orders which enable regulation of the road space of Paisley Town Centre. This ensures that roads are not blocked by vehicles, visibility is not impaired by parked vehicles, and allows the safe movement of pedestrians, free flow of traffic and efficient use of parking spaces.

3.6 Parking Charge Income & Expenditure

- 3.6.1 Paisley Town Centres on and off-street car parking Policy generates approximately £1 million of income per annum for the Council. £820,000 is generated through parking tariffs for on and off-street car parking in Paisley, and £180,000 in parking fine income throughout Renfrewshire. Approximately 75% of the parking fine income is generated through vehicles parking between 30 minutes and 3 hours.
- 3.6.2 The Council's gross expenditure in management and enforcement of Paisley and Renfrewshire's Special Parking area and associated traffic regulation orders is approximately £560,000 per annum. These resources include car parking staff, maintenance of car parks, parking wardens, rates, and management and administration of parking fines.

4.0 Review of Paisley Town Centre Car Parking Policy

- 4.1 Paisley First have approached the Council to discuss Paisley Town Centre's current Car Parking Policy which was reflected in the motion to Council as set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report. Paisley First in expressing their views put forward a proposal for a period of 3 hours free parking in Paisley Town Centre.
- 4.2 The Council is not the only provider of car parking spaces in Paisley Town Centre. Consideration of the Council's car parking policy would need to consider the wider implications for the private parking providers in the Town Centre at the associated Piazza and Paisley Shopping Centres.
- 4.3 The review proposes to create a working group involving business, the Council, private car park operators, and associated shopping centres in Paisley Town Centre. The remit of the working group will be to consider the review as set out in section 1.2 of the report above and the financial, economic and legal considerations of Paisley Town Centre car parking Policy. It is proposed that the working group consists of both officers and elected members representation from the Council, consisting of the Convener of the Leadership Board and with one councillor from each of the largest political groups, SNP, Labour and Conservatives, who represent Paisley wards. The working group also proposes to invite the following stakeholders to participate in the group:

- Paisley First
- Piazza and Paisley Shopping Centres
- Network Rail
- West of Scotland University

4.4 In addition to the scope outlined above, the working group will also consider the potential for suitable locations for parking to facilitate increased tourism in relation to the Cultural Infrastructure Programme.

5.0 Review of Electric Vehicle Charging Point Infrastructure for Paisley Town Centre

5.1 There are currently two electric vehicle charging bays within the Council controlled on and off-street parking locations in Paisley Town Centre at Renfrewshire House. Following successful submission to the Scottish Government the Council has been awarded funding to install electric charging points in public car parks across Renfrewshire. It is proposed through 2019 to install 26 charging spaces across 4 public car parks in Paisley Town Centre as set out below. These proposed locations will also be discussed with the working group.

Location	Charging Point Details
Lagoon Leisure Centre Car Park, Christie Street, Paisley	1x 22kW dual outlet charging post (2 spaces)
Bridge Street Car Park, Paisley	2x Triple Outlet Rapid Chargers and 2x 7kW dual outlet charging posts (8 spaces)
New Sneddon Street Car Park, Paisley	2x Triple Outlet Rapid Chargers and 2x 7kW dual outlet charging posts (8 spaces)
Hunter Street Car Park, Paisley	2x Triple Outlet Rapid Chargers and 2x 7kW dual outlet charging posts (8 spaces)

5.2 The creation of 26 charging points in locations where parking tariff apply allows the Council to consider its charging Policy for electric charging bays to encourage the use of electric vehicles. The Council does not have a formal Policy position on tariff charges for those parking and charging electric vehicles within Zones 1 – 3 of Paisley Town Centre, a proposed Policy position of not charging those vehicle owners who are charging their electric vehicles is put forward for consideration. If such as Policy was adopted, this Policy would require to be reviewed at regular intervals to take account of the level of alternative fuel vehicles in use across Scotland and Renfrewshire, where incentives may not be required to encourage the use of alternative fuel vehicles in the future.

6.0 Review of Disabled Car Parking Bay Provision

6.1 There has been a review of Disabled Parking Spaces across Paisley Town centre where there are currently 109 on and off street car parking spaces available. Through this review it was identified that there was a lack of provision in a small number of car parks in the Town Centre and as a result a further 4 number of

disabled parking bays are proposed for creation in 2019, in the Hunter St (upper), School Wynd, Oakshaw and Maxwell Street car parks. These will be implemented through the promotion of an appropriate permanent Traffic Regulation Order.

- 6.2 On-street provision of disabled parking spaces is considered adequate and well located for access to popular destinations in the town centre. No further action is proposed for on-street disabled bay provision.

7.0. Review of Car Park Signage

- 7.1 There are 19 Council operated car parks within Paisley Town Centre providing 1015 spaces with a further 235 on street parking bays. In addition to the Council operated car parks there are 838 privately operated car parking spaces in Paisley town centre. 530 spaces at the Paisley centre and 338 spaces at the Piazza centre and 75 park and ride spaces at Paisley Gilmour Street Station.
- 7.2 The car parks are all centrally located within the town centre but due to the road layout within the town centre, accessibility to the car parks can in some instances be a barrier to visitors using the car parks.
- 7.3 A review of all road signage, including car park signage within Paisley Town Centre was undertaken in 2016. The review identified the requirement for additional signage to be located to assist with wayfinding to and from the Council run and privately operated car parks.
- 7.4 The current review of car parking in Paisley Town Centre has identified the need for further improvements to be made to the wayfinding within the town centre to allow visitors to utilise the car parks which are underutilised within the town centre.
- 7.5 As part of the investment in Public Realm and Transportation improvements approved by the Leadership Board in September 2018, there will be a particular focus on improving parking signage, particularly the introduction of dynamic signage at key junctions and gateway entry points in to Paisley Town Centre. The proposals will be discussed and considered by the working group.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The financial details of the report are set out in section 3
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** – The legal implications will be considered as part of the outcome of the findings of the working group reported to a future Leadership Board.
5. **Property/Assets** - None

6. **Information Technology** – The creation of electric vehicle charging bays is set out in section 5 of the report
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – Not applicable

List of Background Papers - None

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