

## STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4 OCTOBER 2018

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<b>Report Title</b>	<b>CAR PARK REVIEW 2018</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<b>To approve and adopt the amended Variation Order</b>
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<p><b>The Committee RESOLVES that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The amended Variation Order (appended to this report) be approved for implementation</li> <li>2. That car parking charges are not introduced in Dursley, Nailsworth, Stratford Park and Wotton-under-Edge</li> </ol>
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Informal meetings with relevant town and parish councils</li> <li>2. Members Information Evening undertaken – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018</li> <li>3. Public and statutory consultation</li> <li>4. Town &amp; Parish Councils and other organisations as detailed in the answer to Q2 Question at 9 August Council meeting (see link) <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/738408/item-10-members-qa-council-9-8-18.pdf">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/738408/item-10-members-qa-council-9-8-18.pdf</a></li> <li>5. A total of four petitions <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/have-your-say/petitions/current-petitions">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/have-your-say/petitions/current-petitions</a></li> </ol>
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	<p>This report provides members with an update on the Car Park review and gives rise to the following financial implications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The amended variation order makes provision for ‘free after 3.00pm’ parking in the Council’s car parks in Painswick and Stonehouse. This report estimates that the reduction in income from such a change is £3k per annum. This will be contained within existing budgets.</li> <li>2. The report recommends that charges are not introduced to the Council’s car parks in Dursley, Nailsworth, Stratford Park and Wotton-under-Edge. The Medium Term Financial Plan, as approved by Council in January 2018 included a savings target of £100k per annum from 2019/20 (increasing by £10k per annum thereafter) associated with the introduction of car parking charges to market towns. Whilst the Car Park Review 2018 report to Strategy and Resources in June 2018 provided an updated financial assessment of the costs and fee income associated with charging, the MTFP will need to be adjusted to recognise the current position as set out in this report.</li> </ol> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>Legal Implications</b>	The revised draft Variation Order does not seek to introduce any changes which were not proposed in the version of the document which was previously published for consultation. As such, the required statutory consultation has already taken place.
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<b>Options</b>	1) No Change 2) Accept Variation Order 3) A change to the Variation Order
<b>Background Papers</b>	Parking Consultants Report – Ove Arup & Partners (Arup) <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-travel/parking/stroud-district-car-parking-review">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-travel/parking/stroud-district-car-parking-review</a> Original Committee Report – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/682550/item-6-car-park-review.pdf">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/682550/item-6-car-park-review.pdf</a>
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix - Variation Order

## 1. Background and Context

1.1 A Car Park Review report was considered by this committee on 14 June 2018. It was resolved by committee to consult on the Draft Variation Order appended to the report and then report back to the committee at the end of the consultation.

1.2 At the 19 July 2018 Council Meeting the Leader made the following announcement:

*”In view of the level of public interest, the Administration Group Leaders agreed that any recommendations on introducing car parking charges from the Strategy and Resources Committee would be referred to Council for determination.”*

1.3 On 16 August 2018 the following press release was issued:

*Statement from Councillor Doina Cornell, Leader of Stroud District Council:*

*“After carefully considering the views of the public, parish and town councils, and businesses, Stroud District Council is stopping proposals to charge for car parking in Dursley, Nailsworth, Wotton-under-Edge and Stratford Park in Stroud. “We have listened to concerns and it is has become clear during the past months that high street traders face a rapidly changing commercial challenge from a wide range of online services. I am keen to continue dialogue with traders and councils about these ongoing challenges for town centres.”*

## **2. Consultation Responses**

- 2.1 The consultation received 1,080 submissions during the six week period. Responses from the Town and Parish councils can be found at the following link: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-travel/parking/stroud-district-car-parking-review/consultation>
- 2.2 There were also four petitions, totalling 2,856 signatures, opposing the proposal to introduce charges, submitted.
- 2.3 The majority of submissions focused exclusively on the charging proposals and were overwhelmingly opposed to introducing charging.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Taking into consideration the Leaders statement on 16 August 2018 in 1.3 above, we will not be recommending the introduction of car parking charges in Dursley, Nailsworth, Wotton-under-Edge or Stratford Park. The Variation Order appended to this report has been amended to reflect this.
- 3.2 As the introduction of charging is not being recommended, Strategy and Resources Committee can resolve this, rather than referring to Council for determination (see para 1.2 above).
- 3.3 There are some minor tidying up adjustments detailed in the Variation Order that are being recommended. Further detail in para 3.4 - 3.8 summarised as:
  - The introduction of free parking after 3pm in Stonehouse and Painswick
  - The introduction of long stay car parking in Cheapside and Stonehouse
  - The inclusion of Stratford Park on the Parking Place Order
  - Provision for future improvements
- 3.4 To support smaller high streets in Painswick and Stonehouse, where car park charges currently exist, the charging hours will be amended to include 'free after 3pm' parking. Based on current usage in these car parks, after 3pm, this is likely to reduce revenue by approximately £2,000-£3,000 p.a. This will bring Stonehouse and Painswick in line with Stroud, where an offer of free parking after 3pm already exists.
- 3.5 To support rail users a 72 hour parking tariff at both Cheapside Car Park and Stonehouse Car Parks will be introduced. Users of associated railway stations will then have certainty of an appropriate parking space. This is likely to be of particular benefit in Stonehouse where 'on street' parking can be problematic for local residents.

- 3.6 Although Stratford Park will not be subjected to parking charges, it will be brought in to line with other paying and non-paying car parks and placed on the Parking Place Order (it is currently not included). Patrons will still be able to park for free all day. However, this minor alteration will allow appropriate enforcement – for example if a vehicle is parked in a disabled bay without a blue badge.
- 3.7 As charging is not being recommended, there is no funding provision for the potential future introduction of both contactless payment systems and electric vehicle charging points. However, this will be included in the Variation Order to future proof the regulatory framework, should these facilities be subsequently introduced.
- 3.8 Other minor tidying of the Parking Place Order, including the update of site plans and cessation of permitted commercial vehicle parking in Cheapside Car Park will proceed.

#### **4. Timeline**

- 4.1 Should the appended variation order be approved, preparatory work would be undertaken, with a view to introducing the changes in January 2019.