

REPORT

SUBJECT: Consultation exercise in relation to a proposed new car park order for MCC public car parks

MEETING: Economy and Development Select Committee

DATE: 14th April 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: County wide

1. PURPOSE

To scrutinize the feedback arising from the statutory consultation exercise in relation to the proposed new car park order for MCC public car parks and comment as members see fit.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members note the contents of the draft car park order – Appendices 1a, 1b, 1c.
- 2.2 That members note the feedback arising from the consultation exercise.
- 2.3 That members reflect upon the outcome of their previous scrutiny and confirm if they wish to comment further as a result of the statutory consultation process.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In 2014 the Economy and Development Select Committee scrutinized proposals to introduce numerous changes to the MCC car parking regime.
- 3.2 Following scrutiny proposals went to Cabinet for approval in September 2014.
- 3.3 Various recommendations were approved (new car parks, increase in charges) including the drafting of a new car park order.
- 3.4 The proposed car park order has been published and is presently in a statutory consultation period. Feedback has already been received and may be seen in 3 attachments (car park feedback parts 1,2 and 3).
- 3.5 62 pieces of correspondence have been received to date (the formal consultation process closes on 22nd April 2016).The feedback from the

consultation exercise is provided in the feedback attachments for members perusal but there are a few predominant themes:

Charging blue badge holders: 24 of the 62 pieces of correspondence have been received. The consistent response has been that to charge blue badge holders is unfair. In some instances mitigation has been suggested such as the first hour of parking being free.

Creating short term (no return within 2 hours) car parks: The withdrawal of the opportunity to park all day in a short stay car park means that those wishing to park all day must now use an alternative car park which may be less convenient.

Charging (Monday to Saturday) in Byefield Lane, Abergavenny: concern that this removes the only free car park in Abergavenny (other than Tuesday) resulting in those regularly using the car park moving to park on street to avoid charges.

Charging for the station car park, Chepstow: concern that this might deter travellers from using the train and prompting drivers to park on street to avoid car park charges.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 Members of the Economy and Development Select Committee carried out detailed scrutiny of the proposals in July 2014 before they went to Cabinet in September 2014.

link to Economy and Development select committee minutes:

[http://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/Data/Economy%20and%20Development%20Select%20Committee/20140714/Minutes/\\$3ii%20Special%20E&D%2014th%20July.docx.pdf](http://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/Data/Economy%20and%20Development%20Select%20Committee/20140714/Minutes/$3ii%20Special%20E&D%2014th%20July.docx.pdf)

- 4.2 Following the decisions of Cabinet in September 2014 the car park charges were increased (in car parks where a charge was already in place). However for other changes to how the car parks are managed a new car park order is required. Coupled with the preparation of a new order is the need to undertake statutory consultation and for this to be considered when a decision is taken about whether the new order should be implemented as proposed, amended or shelved.
- 4.3 The proposed car park order recently published largely reflects the proposals scrutinised previously by the Economy and Development Select Committee. However members are being given the opportunity to see the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise and decide if they wish to comment further prior to the relevant information being placed before Cabinet and a decision sought.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial impact forecast has been reviewed but that reported to Cabinet on the 3rd September 2014 remains a reasonable assessment.

Link :

<http://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/20140903/Agenda/Full%20Cabinet%20Agenda.pdf>

Members are reminded that the scheme as a whole seeks to generate income for reinvestment into the service so whilst recommendations for changes are the prerogative of members it is highlighted that changes may adjust the affordability of various elements of the investment plan/parking strategy.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT and EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment was provided to cabinet in September 2014. This remains relevant however an updated Future Generations and Equality assessment is provided with this report.

7. CONSULTEES:

Consultees to the proposed car park order include:

County councillors
Community and town councils
General public

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS: Reports to Economy and Development Select committee:**
20th February 2014 – titled ‘MCC Car Park Review’
14th July 2014 – titled ‘ Car Park Review – Feedback from Consultation Exercise and Recommendations to Cabinet’

9. AUTHORS

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