



North Devon Council

Report Date: 4th October 2021

Topic: Review Of Oversized Vehicle Parking

Report by: Parking Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Councillor Tucker presented a notice of motion to Council on 26th September 2018 requesting that the issue of enforcing larger vehicles overhanging bays be looked at by the Executive to consider increasing the number of oversized bays or relining all the existing car parks to accommodate.
- 1.2. Parking data from 1st January 2018 – 31st August 2021 has been analysed by the Parking Manager.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2. That a further report be brought back to members on the future strategy of car parking in North Devon including asset utilisation, signage, pricing and options for customers to pay for parking usage.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. A motion brought to Council in September 2018 requested officers look at the issue of enforcing larger vehicles overhanging bays and whether there is justification in an increase of the number of oversized bays or the relining of all existing car parks to accommodate. This report looks at the viability of this request.
- 3.2. A further report will come to members on the future strategy for the car parks that aligns with other corporate projects within all of our town centres.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The occupancy of all car parks across Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and South Molton has been and continues to be currently very high especially in light of increased visitor numbers to the area through a much longer seasonal period which this trend is expected to continue.
- 4.2 A schedule of works that requires immediate attention was discussed by the Parking Manager and Property Maintenance Officer in September 2021. This has identified a need for some oversized bay parking in a small number of our car parks but is not considered a high priority at this time. It is not viable to add larger bays in **all** NDC car parks as there is not capacity for this, Tuly Street car park in Barnstaple is one example.

4.3 Analysis was carried out on 26,586 penalty charge notices issued between January 2018 and September 2021. The data showed 1605 (6%) of all penalty charge notices issued were for contravention 86 – ‘not parked correctly within the markings of a bay or space’. The data showed 268 (1%) of all penalty charge notices issued were for contravention 92, ‘parked causing an obstruction’.

4.4 The Civil Enforcement Officers have clear guidance on when to issue a penalty charge notice for each contravention. They are encouraged to use the information boards within the car park as a process of elimination.

4.5 The Civil Enforcement Officers are deemed to be issuing penalty charge notices correctly to vehicles overhanging a parking bay. A change in approach to the issuing of penalty charge notices is ongoing. The Parking Manager wishes to advise car park users of any potential contraventions in the first instance with a ‘warning’ notice, followed by a penalty charge notice if the vehicle is seen in contravention again.

4.6 The current data shows that there is not a significant enough issue to justify the cost of relining all parking bays. Doing so throughout all car parks would result in losing a substantial amount (-40%) of car parking. An example being Ilfracombe where this would exacerbate the issues already present due to demand exceeding supply in these car parks. Any loss of parking bays could have a negative impact on residents, visitors, tourism and town centres.

4.7 There already exists a provision for oversized vehicles in towns within the North Devon District area. Larger bays are currently offered as follows:
Barnstaple – Bear Street, North Walk and Seven Brethren Lorry/Van Park
Ilfracombe – Brookdale and Hillsborough

South Molton – South Molton Central and Lorry Park

4.8 Part of the current Service Plan for Car parking is to review all signage possibly replacing some of the wording with commonly used pictures. It is recognised that pictures are often easier to ‘read’ and understand than parking terminology. A review of signage when driving into our town centres will also take place.

4.9 A number of new projects being delivered involve the provision of car parking. Early involvement with the Parking, Property and Technical teams could provide opportunities to identify potential areas for larger parking bays and need to be considered as part of the wider strategy.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Revenue Budget has an allocation of £50,000 for planned maintenance and repairs on car parks.

5.2 Relining all parking bays to be larger in size would cause significant disruption to car park users whilst works were undertaken. Any planned works in the future can be relayed to the public via social media platforms, the council website and signage within the car parks. Alternative parking would need to be provided for permit holders.



6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment Summary form has been completed.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph:

7.2. Referred or delegated power:

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

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Date: 22/09/2021