



## North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday, 1 July 2024

Topic: North Devon Council Off-Street (Parking Places) Order - Variation

Report by: Lena Iliffe, Parking Manager

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. We would refer to the updated Off Street Parking Order (OSPO) approved by Members at Strategy and Resources on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- 1.2. Due to the progression of the Future High Street Fund project this report seeks to advise members where changes need to be reflected in the OSPO.
- 1.3. That being the regeneration of Queen Street/Bear Street Car Park with the new access from Alexandra Road which requires an amendment to the boundary maps.
- 1.4. A name change is also proposed for the combined Queen Street/Bear Street car park to Barnstaple Central Car Park.
- 1.5. Members will be aware of the background to this regeneration project, which was given Member Sign Off at Strategy and Resources on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Future High Street Fund paper including the regeneration of Queen Street/Bear Street car park.
- 1.6. This report seeks to amend the boundary of the Tarka car park to include the adjacent access roads to enable enforcement of these areas and ease congestion.
- 1.7. This report also seeks to obtain Members approval to vary the charges in Belle Meadow Car Park in line with consultations from users to enable the tariff to offer the 50p ½ an hour fee.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Members approve that a consultation be carried out to amend the Off Street Parking Order as follows:
  - 2.1.1. the boundary outline to Queen Street/Bear Street Car park be amended to incorporate the new access into and out of the car park from Alexandra Terrace;
  - 2.1.2. that the combined Queen Street and Bear Street Car Parks be renamed Barnstaple Central Car Park;
  - 2.1.3. to account for a proposed tariff change at Belle Meadow Car Park to include the ½-hour 50p fee;
  - 2.1.4. to amend the boundary of the Tarka Car Park, to include the identified access roads
- 2.2. That delegated power be given to the Head of Place, Property and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader, Senior Solicitor and Monitoring



Officer to make the Order following the consultation subject to there being no material objections or amendments necessary.

### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To update the Off Street Parking Order to reflect the needs of North Devon District Council in consideration of the significant project taking place at Queen Street/Bear Street and the need for these provisions to be in place to facilitate the opening and enforcement of these new parking facilities.
- 3.2. The renaming of Queen Street and Bear Street Car Park to Barnstaple Central Car Park aims to promote accessibility and ease of use for this car park for visitors and other users of the Town Centre, with its close proximity to Bear Street, the High Street and Boutport Street
- 3.3. To make a variation to the charges in Belle Meadow Car Park to take into account user requirements and public feedback
- 3.4. To update the Off Street Parking Order to allow sufficient enforcement, better management of traffic and prevent congestion in this location since the new leisure opened

### 4. REPORT

4.1 This report is required to enable an update to be made to the North Devon (Off Street Parking Places) Order for the amendment of the regulations for the Off Street Parking Places within the management and control of North Devon Council.

The proposed amendments are as follows;

1. To accept and adopt the removal of the currently separate Queen Street and Bear Street car parks, under the approved FHSF project these two car parks will merge and become one car park. This requires an amendment to the current OSPO boundary plan.
2. After discussion with Officers and Stakeholders, it is proposed that the combined car park is renamed Barnstaple Central Car Park, therefore promoting its use to those wishing to park centrally in Barnstaple, close to the main town centre and surrounding retail locations such as Boutport Street and Bear Street.
3. The additional access to this car park from Alexandra Road will be added to the boundary plan once the works are completed. Approval of this report will enable this to take place with the appropriate consultation when the access is ready for use and negates the need for this to come back to Committee for further approval.
4. To accept and adopt the addition of condition C55 under the existing order which permits the use of the 50p for half an hour tariff for Belle Meadow car park. Adding the half an hour tariff provides for customers attending the Medical Centre and/or pharmacy, this proposal has been led by the Medical Centre management Team and is at their and their client's request.

The Tarka car park was extended as a result of the Tarka Leisure project. The extended boundary to this area will include the access road running from the Seven Brethren Lorry/Van Park past the Tarka Leisure Centre to the Seven Brethren Long Stay car park. This is necessary due to increased usage of the parking areas since the completion of the Tarka Leisure Centre. This will enable NDC Officers to enforce in areas where persons are parking on the roadside as opposed to using the parking bays. This parking practice is causing congestion and health and safety concerns, which will increase once the new car park is open. This area of the road network is in NDC ownership and the highways are not adopted so it is therefore considered as off street parking.

5. The changes in this report are to reflect the needs of the community and support the refurbishment of two significant Barnstaple town centre car parks, both projects being part of larger intervention to support the regeneration of the town.
6. The changes also seek to address the use of the Belle Meadow car park by patients of the Medical Centre, who often do not require an hour of parking time whilst attending. Data for other car parks shows that this tariff option it is currently the third most popular tariff paid, as proposed and supported by members at Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services and the Parking Team in updating and consulting on the OSPO legal status.

Changes to signage, which form part of the wider projects budgets

Communication and Parking Team – Updating Customer information and social media accounts.

Financial – We anticipate the proposed changes having a cost neutral or improved impact on revenue.

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. Completed and Emailed to Head of Service

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Completed and emailed to Donna Sibley

## 8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: The regulation and provision of the car parks to become Barnstaple Central and the extension to Tarka Car Park promotes the commercial use of council assets.

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: the refurbished car park is part of the Future High Streets Project and will provide an improved parking place with consideration given to designated bays for family, disabled, motorcycle and oversized vehicle parking. The extension of the boundary at Tarka will allow more efficient management of the parking, which has increased significantly since the opening of the new leisure centre. Provision of a 30-minute tariff at Belle Meadow is in response to multiple requests from car park users attending the Medical Centre.

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: The Queen Street and Bear Street Car Parks are end of life in terms of the current surface treatment and resurfacing would have taken place in any event, but the combination of the car parks, rebranding, pedestrianisation upgrade, layout improvement and, a new vehicular access provided off Alexandra Road provides a substantial positive regeneration impact on the Town Centre.

## 9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made by this Committee pursuant to delegated powers provided in paragraph 1 of Annexe 1 to Part 3 of the Constitution.

## 10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:  
North Devon (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2024

11.1. [Agenda for Strategy and Resources Committee on Monday, 4th December, 2023, 10.00 am Council Services \(northdevon.gov.uk\)](#) – Future High Street Fund

11.2. [Agenda for Strategy and Resources Committee on Monday, 3rd July, 2023, 10.00 am Council Services \(northdevon.gov.uk\)](#) – Seven Brethren Project

## 12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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

Author: Lena ILIFFE (Car Parks Manager)

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024