



North Devon Council

Report Date 1st July 2024

Topic: Car Parking Strategy for North Devon

Report by: Lena Iliffe, Car Parking Manager

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report requests that members adopt the draft Car Parking strategy for North Devon.

1.2 The draft Car Parking Strategy that has been developed and that is appended to this report; Appendix 1, seeks to set out a clear, measured approach to how we will manage our parking services. It provides a forward plan and framework to enable us to make informed decisions on how we manage our assets, services and travel movements as well as provide best value in a corporate, economic, social and customer-focused way.

1.3 In drafting the Strategy, it has had regard to existing and emerging Council Strategies including the Corporate Plan, North Devon and Torrington Local Plan, the Commercialisation Strategy, Asset management Strategy and the Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Strategy

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members adopt the Car Parking Strategy appended to this report, to include the minor amendments as follows:

- That the website is actively updated to ensure accurate information is available for the public.
- To include additional information about electric vehicular charging points, which could include a separate strategy.
- To include North Devon Council's approach to managing abandoned and untaxed vehicles within North Devon Council car parks.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To agree the adoption of the Car Parking Strategy which will provide a clear framework for the management of our car parks service and to ensure minor amendments that have been identified are captured.

4.0 REPORT

4.1 A Car parking Strategy is required to provide a clear framework for the delivery of our car parking service and management of our assets and to inform decision making going forward.

4.2 The proposed strategy seeks to:

- Inform and be informed by our 'Commercialisation Strategy' and 'Asset Management Strategy'
- Provide increased visibility of our parking services
- Make sure traffic movement, condition and signage are fit for purpose within our car parks and that we have identified and managed risk
- Promote accessibility to key areas in our district and support local economic and social vibrancy
- Reinvest revenue into parking services ensuring best value for our customers
- Prioritise public safety whilst using our car parks
- Manage parking enforcement in a fair and consistent manner
- Improve traffic congestion, encourage more sustainable travel options and smarter choices
- Provide access to key services for people with special needs, mobility difficulties and disabilities by providing appropriate parking provision and accessible information
- Improve efficiency of our parking services
- Consider and make provisions for future issues and demands
- Ensure maximised parking utilisation by monitoring cost, income, unused capacity and permit uptake.

4.3 The Strategy identifies the team structure delivering our car parking service and commits to providing the service in a positive and customer focused way.

4.4 At section 5, it sets out our approach to charges and tariffs including permits, variety of payment methods as well as car park designation, business use, EV charging points, signage, our approach to third party car parks, parking bay sizes, coach and lorry parking and enforcement.

4.5 At section 6, the Strategy focuses on our approach to our car parks in our main towns; Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and South Molton, recognising the different needs of these individual places.

4.6 At Section 7, the management of our coastal car parks is considered.

4.7 Section 8 sets out our approach to monitoring the condition of our car parks and a further Programme for this is recognised as an Action later in the strategy.

4.8 Section 9 sets out the Service recommendations for improved service delivery over the period of this Strategy.

4.9 Section 10 sets out key actions required by the Council to ensure continued improvement to the service and its positive relationship with wider corporate objectives.

4.10 The draft strategy has been considered by Senior Management Team who have suggested the following amendments:

- Ensure that the website is actively updated to ensure accurate information is available for the public.
- Include additional information about electric vehicular charging points, which could include a separate strategy.
- That the car parking strategy include North Devon Council's approach to managing abandoned and un-taxed vehicles in our car parks.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Car Parking Strategy will be implemented using the existing resources within the Council. Any decisions related to capital investment or charge levels etc will be brought to Members for consideration separately but the Strategy sets out the requirement to review these two financial considerations.

6.0 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1 The car parking strategy sets out a framework for decision making. Any ongoing decision will need to have regard to the impact on our customers and complete a separate Equalities Impact Assessment.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 The car parking strategy sets out a framework for decision making. Any ongoing decision will need to have regard to the impact the environment and complete a separate Environmental Assessment.

8.0 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

8.1.1 The commercialisation agenda: The strategy will require decision making in consideration alongside the Commercialisation strategy.

8.1.2 Improving customer focus: The Car parking service will operate in a customer focused manner in line with the Corporate Plan.

8.1.3 Regeneration or economic development: The Strategy considers opportunities for regeneration.

9.0 CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

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

10.0 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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).

Consideration was had to the Council's Corporate Plan and other adopted/draft strategies in drafting the Car parking Strategy.

12.0 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Lena Iliffe, Car Parking Manager.