

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION: 24th March 2020 (to take effect from 25th March 2020)
PORTFOLIO AREA: Property and Asset Management
SUBJECT TITLE: Parking Charges in Test Valley Borough Council Car Parks

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

SECTION B – IDENTITY OF THE “DECISION-MAKER”

Name of Officer: Roger Tetstall
Title: Chief Executive

This decision is made pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of the “Delegations to Chief Executive” in Part 3 of the Constitution, namely:

“To do anything, in consultation with the Leader, which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of the Council’s functions subject to:

- (i) the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation; and
- (ii) a report back to the Council, Cabinet or Committee concerned. “

SECTION C – SUMMARY

This decision is made in the circumstances of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the UK. This is an emergency or urgent situation as contemplated by the Delegated Powers referred to above.

On the 23rd March 2020 Government directed the public to stay at home and only to go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only where that work cannot be done from home) and to stay 2 metres away from other people at all times in the event that they do leave their homes.

On 10th of October 2018 Cabinet approved the Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2019/2020, including parking charges. On 15th January 2020 Cabinet approved a schedule of parking tariffs to take effect from 1st April 2020.

The decision will be kept under review in tandem with central government’s review of the ‘lockdown restrictions’.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

To suspend parking charges in the Council's pay and display Car Parks until further notice.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision-maker's reasons for making the decision recorded in Section D:

Given Government's directive, the public should only be using the Council's car parks in the essential circumstances defined in Government Guidance.

Suspending parking charges will ensure that those parking in order to carry out essential tasks can do so as speedily and safely as possible, minimising opportunities for interaction with others and enabling social distancing. It will also ensure that there is adequate parking for those living in and around the town centres who have been directed to stay at home and for those undertaking essential work in the towns. This decision will also relieve the Council's parking staff from the requirement to interact with the public, thereby protecting both parties from potential contamination.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council at which this decision could be considered. Meetings are not taking place currently and legislation is awaited prescribing how meetings are to be dealt with during this time of emergency and social distancing.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The principal options considered were either to continue to apply the Council's parking charges, or, for a period, in the light of the national emergency presented by Coronavirus (COVID-19) to suspend those charges.

Consideration was also given to whether the Council should simply not enforce its parking regulations but this was deemed to be undesirable because such an approach risks penalising those law abiding members of our communities who are unwilling to flout regulations despite receiving assurances that they will not be prosecuted.

In the circumstances, the decision to suspend parking charges until further notice was taken.

SECTION G – OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

SECTION H – BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were taken into consideration when making the decision:

1. Test Valley Borough Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges 2019/2020:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/licensingandregulation/licensing/adviceinformation/schedule-fees-charges>

2. Minute of decision of Cabinet 15th January 2020 approving a schedule of parking tariffs to take effect from 1st April 2020:

<http://modgov1-tvbc/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=2661&Ver=4>

3. Government Guidance 23rd March 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None.

We certify that the decision this document records was made Pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of "Delegations to Chief Executive" in Part 3 of the Constitution and is a true and accurate record or minute of that decision.

Chief Executive: _____ Dated: _____

The Leader of the Council _____ Dated: _____

