

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS



Please refer to Guidance Notes overleaf

Forward Plan Ref. No.	2019 320 Coach Parking in Glastonbury & Wells	Date of decision 16 August 2019
Name of Portfolio Holder	Cllr Nick Cottle - Neighbourhood Services	
Name of Officer	Alison Payne - Senior Car Parks Officer	
Details of Decision	To permanently offer free parking for coaches using Northload Street West Coach Park in Glastonbury and Princes Road Coach Park in Wells.	
Details of consultation carried out: Tick		
Chief Executive/ Deputy Chief Executive	Donna Nolan	Date: 7 th August 2019
Legal	Lesley Dolan	Date: 7 th August 2019
Finance	Duncan Moss	Date: 7 th August 2019
Group Manager	Haylee Wilkins	Date: 7 th August 2019
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Nick Cottle	Date: 7 th August 2019
Ward Member (mark NA if necessary)	NA	Date:
Reasons for Decision	<p>In April 2018, free coach parking at Northload Street West coach park in Glastonbury and Princes Road in Wells was agreed for a one year trial from 1st May 2018 to 30th April 2019. This was extended for a further 6 months from 1st May 2019 until 30th September 2019.</p> <p>This decision looked to trial free parking of this nature in order to support the tourist industry within Glastonbury and Wells and thus waiving the parking charges set in the Council's Off Street Parking Places Order dated 1st October 2018 specifically for coaches using Northload Street West and Princes Road.</p> <p>Informal current customer and business feedback (received verbally) would suggest that the opportunity of free parking has seen an increase in tourists and has been positively received by both coach and bus companies as well as the tourists themselves. There is also a strong likelihood that this extension through a busier period of time (Spring and Summer months) would see an even greater utilisation within the tourist environment. It is not been possible, however, for officers to carry out formal monitoring of the outcomes of this trial at this time.</p> <p>In order to build on the success of this trial period, it is now proposed to indefinitely offer free coach parking at these two locations. When it comes time for the Parking Order to be</p>	

re-issued the free parking can be included in the pricing schedule at that time. Equally, when a fees variation order is made it can be incorporated it into the Order at that time. Therefore, this decision is only until such time as the Order marking process catches up.

This decision will encourage coach drivers continue to use the parking area at Northload Street West Car Park and Princes Road for longer and in turn, deter them from parking on residential streets or moving to other locations such as Clarks Village or Elm Grove where they are not charged for parking, as well as potentially increasing the number of coaches to the area and thus increasing tourism, footfall in the High Street and use of local businesses.

Ross Young of Wells City Council has provided the following statement:-

“We started meet & greet at the beginning of September 2017 with no real statistics for previous years but were pleased with the number recorded in our first year.

When MDC dropped the parking charges in May last year, it was met with very positive feedback from drivers and operators alike, and this coupled with the m&g led us to receive Coach Friendly Destination of the year in March this year at the Coach Tourism Awards. It goes without saying that the reaction of passengers is also very positive.

We’ve also seen a shift in coaches coming to the Coach Park to drop off rather than using Sadler Street, which often causes jams, which continues to improve.

Sept-Aug 2017/8: 38%CP, 62% Sadler. Sept-June2018/9: 45% CP, 55% Sadler.

We have also recorded an upwards shift in staying time with an average of 3 hours, up from 2.

You will see that we ask passengers returning to the coaches how much they’ve spent and the average is £13.50 and totals are below. With 2 months to go to end of August we expect another £90k + to be spent in the City, far exceeding the previous year’s total.

It would be a shame if the free parking incentive was dropped in September as the scheme is still really only in its infancy and we are sure that the bridges we have built with Coach drivers and operators can only get stronger for the benefit of Wells, the Cathedral, Palace, retailers et all and of course operators and passengers.

SEPT 2017 - AUG 2018

1086 coaches recorded into Wells

£13.50 average spend per head

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	<p><i>34 passengers per coach</i></p> <p><i>Bringing in £498,474 into the local economy</i></p> <p><i>SEPT 2018 - JUNE 12TH 2019</i></p> <p><i>879 coaches recorded into Wells</i></p> <p><i>£13.50 average spend per head</i></p> <p><i>34 passengers per coach</i></p> <p><i>Bringing in £403,461 into the local economy”</i></p> <p>Glastonbury Town Council also say that the free coach parking in Northload Street West car park has had a positive effect on Glastonbury as more passengers are walking into the town centre and visiting more shops, cafes, etc. They would welcome a decision to offer free parking to coaches on a permanent basis.</p>
Any alternative options considered and rejected	NA
Financial and personnel implications	<p>In the year from January to December 2017, a total of £168 was generated by coaches parking in Northload Street West Coach Park in Glastonbury and £700 from coach parking at Princes Road Coach Park in Wells.</p> <p>As such, there are expected to be very limited impacts financially associated with the waiver of these tariffs.</p>
Any relevant personal Interest under the Code of Conduct	NA
Reports and Background papers relevant to the decision	None
Date e-mailed to Members incl Scrutiny Board Chair	28 August 2019
Date of Publication of Notice	28 August 2019
Date Decision comes into force (*see below)	05 September 2019
<p>* Please Note: The decision detailed above will come into force, and may be implemented, 5 clear working days after Publication unless subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Board.</p>	
Signature of Portfolio Holder

Please complete and return to Democratic Services

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Guidance for Officers



1. The Council's Constitution sets out some quite specific procedures to be followed when decisions are made by individual members of the Cabinet. These are based on statutory requirements and are intended to ensure that:
 - (a) such decisions are made available to the public in the same way as decisions made by the Cabinet as a whole; and
 - (b) Scrutiny Board has an opportunity to consider whether to call-in such decisions for review before they become effective.
2. The information required overleaf should be completed in relation to each decision made by a portfolio-holder. Any relevant reports and background papers should be attached as these must be available for public inspection. **Please note** that, to comply with the Constitution, the form needs to confirm that various parties have been consulted and to give details of any relevant personal interest of the portfolio-holder.
3. The form and attachments should then be forwarded to Democratic Services within 2 days of the decision being made. They will add the date of publication and the date on which the decision will come into force if not called-in, and make the necessary publication arrangements. These will include:
 - publishing the decision on the Council's web-site
 - storing a copy of the form centrally on SharePoint
 - e-mailing a copy of the form to all members, including the chair of Scrutiny Board.

Other methods of publicising the decision may also be used from time to time.

4. Democratic Services will return a copy of the form to the officer submitting it giving the date of publication and the date that the decision can be implemented. **Please note: It is important to be aware that the decision cannot be implemented until it comes into force – under the current constitutional arrangements this will be 5 working days after publication, provided the decision is not called-in.**
5. Decisions should only be called in under exceptional circumstances. If this happens, the procedures in paragraph 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules in Part 8 of the Constitution will be followed, and the decision cannot be implemented until these procedures have been gone through as appropriate.
6. Any queries on this procedure should be addressed to Democratic Services or Donna Nolan (ext. 210).