

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

OFFICER DECISION REPORT

Report Title	TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES			
Purpose of Report	To record the decision made with regards to temporary suspension of parking charges			
Decision(s)	A decision has been made to a. Suspend parking charges within Stroud until such time as government restrictions begin to be eased			
Consultation and Feedback	Group Leaders of all four parties have been consulted together with the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer			
Report Author	Andrew Cummings Strategic Director of Resources Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Charges could have remained in place throughout the Covid-19 restrictions			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices				
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On March 23rd 2020 Central Government introduced significant restrictions of movement to help combat the spread of Covid-19.
- 1.2 Government measures only permit travel for shopping for basic necessities such as food and medicine, which must be done as infrequently as possible.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Council wishes to help residents obtain essential supplies and also to help the small number of essential businesses which the Government is allowing to stay open. The Council also supports the Government's view that health workers, social care workers and NHS volunteers should not have to pay for car parking as they go about their critical work.

- 2.2 The suspension of parking charges will allow the Council to reallocate parking enforcement staff to critical services which are supporting residents, businesses and communities through the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 2.3 The suspension should be a temporary measure, as in normal trading conditions parking charges are a way of managing demand for spaces within the town, contribute to the Council's targets for reduction of carbon emission and provide a source of revenue to support Council services.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that all car parking charges cease within Stroud Town at this time.
- 3.2 Motorists will be able to park free-of-charge in Parliament Street, Church Street, Cheapside, Rowcroft, London Road and Brunel Mall (subsequently closed) car parks in Stroud town. Parking machines will be covered up.
- 3.3 Charges will be reintroduced at such time as government restrictions begin to be eased. The reintroduction will be fully communicated in advance.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

The agreed budget for 2020/21 has a net income from parking charges to the sum of £668k. The loss of this income stream, even for a temporary period, will inevitably be a significant challenge to the ability of the Council to break even in this year.

However, the direct impact of formally ceasing charging is expected to be relatively minimal. Demand for car parks is already extremely low and therefore the loss of revenue directly related to cessation of charges is not likely to be material.

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4.2.1 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this decision. The Council has the ability to review its charging regime and no consultation is necessary in these circumstances.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category