

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
22nd September 2009

Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 and the issue of 1 month & 6 month Season Tickets

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Economic Success Shared by All
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Vibrant Local Economy
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Tracey Onslow
DIRECTOR:	Mike Parker, Director of Planning & Regulatory Services Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER:	Clare Taylor, Contracts/Licensing Solicitor, Ext 2775 Clare.taylor@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is twofold, firstly to advise Members of the outcome of the consultation on the Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 and to agree its adoption and, secondly, to consider the reinstatement of 1 month and 6 month season tickets which were due to be withdrawn from 1st October 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE: to agree the adoption of the Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 to take effect from 1st October 2009.**
- 2.2 **Cabinet RECOMMENDS to Council the continued availability of 1 month and 6 month season tickets as set out in paragraph 4.6 of this report; and**
- 2.3 **During the interim period from 1st October 2009 to the date upon which 1 and 6 month season tickets at the rates set out in paragraph 4.6 will be made available, Cabinet DECIDES to authorise the issue of 1 month season tickets at the current rate of £45.00 per full season ticket and £24.00 per restricted season ticket, having regard to the Council Scheme of Delegations which gives the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services power to undertake the routine management of the Council's Car Parks within the Council's overall policy and budget.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Council agreed the Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 at a meeting on 20th May 2009. It has since then been advertised for public comment. Council also delegated authority to Cabinet to consider the outcome of that consultation and to agree the adoption of the Order.
- 3.2 The Order is a consolidation of previous amendments and variations to the 2007 Order. The Order establishes the designation and use of parking places, the charges and exemptions from charges, the contravention and penalty charges and other miscellaneous provisions which govern the manner by which the Council operates its public car parks.
- 3.3 The car park charges are agreed as part of the budget by Council in February, these charges are also advertised for public notification before they come into effect on 1st October each year. The charges include any proposed amendments to the issue of season tickets.
- 3.4 When the Council met in February 2009 to set the budget for the current financial year, they also agreed the car park charges to come into effect on 1st October 2009. As part of the new charges, Council proposed to withdraw the availability of 1 month and 6 month season tickets, leaving only 12 month tickets available. However, Council also agreed the introduction of direct debits to enable greater financial management for customers, spreading the cost over 10 monthly payments.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 As a result of the publication of the new Order, the Council received notification from Worcestershire County Council that they agreed to the proposed Order. The Council received no further responses relevant to the implementation of the Order.
- 4.2 There being no other substantive comments in respect of the Order, it is therefore, recommended that Cabinet agree the adoption of the Order.
- 4.3 To give effect to this new Order a public notice will be published in the Kidderminster Shuttle and on the Council's website.
- 4.4 In order to improve the efficiency of issuing season tickets in the light of the closure of the Green Street reception, Council had decided to withdraw the 1 month and 6 month season tickets. However, following discussions with the Hub, they are content that with the introduction of direct debits there will not be any extra administrative burden in continuing to issue 1 and 6 month season tickets from the Hub which therefore means the Council can continue to make them available.
- 4.5 For that reason, therefore, it is recommended that Cabinet recommend to Council at its meeting on 30th September that the 1 month and 6 month season ticket remain available to customers in parallel with the option to switch to direct debit.

- 4.6 It is recommended that the charges for 1 month and 6 month season tickets be as follows:

		<u>Current charges from October 2008</u>	<u>Proposed charge from October 2009</u>
Full Season Ticket	1 month	£45	£47
	6 months	£260	£272
Restricted Season Ticket	1 month	£24	£27
	6 months	£120	£140
Resident Season Ticket	6 months	£54	£65
Senior Citizens' Season Ticket	6 months	£21	£39

- 4.7 It is further recommended that Cabinet authorises that Council officers may issue 1 month season tickets from 1st October 2009 until such date that the above charges set out in paragraph 4.6 come into effect (i.e. after the decision of Council on 30th September is advertised by 14 days public notice), on the basis of the current charge of £45.00 per full season ticket and £24.00 per restricted season ticket.

5. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council exercises its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part VI of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in agreeing the Order.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The final adoption of the Consolidation Order has no financial implications. Maintaining the availability of one month and six month season tickets will maximise the potential revenue receipts for the Council whilst also satisfying customer demand. The proposed charges for the season tickets reflect proportionate increases compared to previous years and are designed to encourage the purchase of 12 month season tickets through the introduction of direct debits.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Without the Order coming into effect, the Council is at risk that Penalty Charge Notices issued in respect of the operation of car parks will be open to challenge.
- 7.2 If the Council does not reinstate the 1 month and 6 month season tickets, there is a great risk for the Council that there will be substantial customer demand that would not be met and a consequent reduction in income.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Council Agenda item 24 on 20th May 2009 The Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009.
- 8.2 Council Financial Strategy agreed a part of the budget 25th February 2009.