

## Blaby District Council

### Cabinet Executive

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16 September 2024
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>The Blaby District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024</b>  This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Environmental Services Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

#### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval for The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

#### 2. Type of Recommendation (please select)

- 2.1 To approve The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 prior to implementation.

#### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 There is a statutory process to be followed to introduce any changes to the way in which the Council regulates its car parks.
- 3.2 To allow for any small changes to be made to the car parking Order after the statutory consultation periods have taken place.

## **4. Matters to consider**

### **4.1 Background**

To allow the Council the legal ability to charge for parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Traffic Management Act 2004, an Order is required. An Order is a legal document which sets out the parking restrictions and charges and allows the lawful enforcement for off-street parking.

Introducing an Off-Street Parking Order is a lengthy process which requires two periods of statutory advertising in a local newspaper:

- Notice of Proposal (21 days of statutory advertising) – this outlines the proposed changes to the car park restrictions and allows for a 21-day consultation period.
- Notice of Making (14 days of statutory consultation) – this follows after any comments on the Notice of Proposal have been considered. It announces the intention to implement the proposed changes and allows for a 14-day consultation period.

Experimental Orders are a different type of traffic regulation that allow for temporary additions or changes to the existing off-street Parking Order, for a maximum period of 18 months. They allow for changes to the existing Order to be trialled without the costly and time-consuming process. Blaby District Council currently has two Experimental Orders in force in the car parks.

The two Experimental Orders currently in force allow the Council to enforce on the Ticket Office Car Park at Narborough Station and allow parking permits to be issued to the Northfield Medical Centre at the Enderby Road Car Park in Blaby. The Experimental Order in force at the Narborough Station Ticket Office Car Park currently expires on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A new Parking Order is therefore required before this date, to allow the Council to continue enforcing at this car park.

#### **Bouskell Park Car Park**

In January 2024, Cabinet approved the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2024 - 2034. The Strategy sets out the objectives for the direction and future of the Council owned parks and open spaces. These objectives have been set with the aim to ensure the parks are sustainable, high quality, accessible and continue to provide value to people, place and nature.

Objective 9 of the Strategy is to ensure the parks are financially self-sustaining and this objective listed the implementation of parking fees as a method that could support this aim. This is also reflected in the adopted Car Parking Strategy 2022 - 2027.

Alongside the introduction of charges, improvement works are proposed at the car park to enlarge the parking space and improve the facility. These

changes are to be funded by UKSPF. A business case to complete the proposed improvements and introduce a charging regime was approved by Informal Cabinet in June 2024.

It has been determined that the Bouskell Park Car Park will offer both PayByPhone and a parking machine for card payment options, to ensure all users are able to pay for our services.

It is proposed that chargeable hours will also apply on Sundays at Bouskell Park Car Park due to its different use as a leisure car park and better reflects the hours of use.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

The table below lists the main changes and reasons for the proposals within the 2024 Order compared to the current Order. These changes are proposed to come into force from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Reason(s)</b>
To incorporate EV charging bay restrictions at Enderby Leisure Centre and Huncote Leisure Centre.	To allow for appropriate enforcement of EV charging bays at Enderby Leisure Centre and Huncote Leisure Centre, should the Council introduce EV charging in the future.
To introduce Season Tickets at Weavers Court Car Park and Enderby Road and Johns Court Car Parks.	To align the listed car parks with the Narborough Station Car Park and to increase the parking options available to car park users in the district.
To introduce NHS Parking Permits at Enderby Road Car Park.	To formalise the current Experimental Order to charge for Permits issued to Northfield Medical Centre to support both the Medical Centre and local community.
To include the Narborough Station Ticket Office Car Park.	To formalise the current Experimental Order and allow for effective management and prevent misuse of the car park.
To introduce a charging regime at Bouskell Park Car Park.	To contribute to the strategic objective of making the Council owned car parks and open spaces financially self-sustaining.
To remove the car parks which have been gifted to Parish Councils.	To remove assets from the Order that the Council no longer owns.

### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

A statutory 21-day consultation period will be conducted as part of the legal process to introduce an Order. This consultation period will start on 1<sup>st</sup> October once a Notice of Proposal has been advertised. These comments will be considered before progressing with the Notice of Making and introducing the Order.

### 4.4 Significant Issues

No significant issues have been identified relating to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities or Public Health Inequalities. Legal implications regarding the making of an Order are contained within the report.

The introduction of EV chargers and Season Tickets will have a positive impact on climate change and residents by providing more options for people to pay in the car parks and providing EV charger options.

## 5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 There are costs associated with the statutory process of introducing a new Parking Order and introducing charging within a new Car Park:

- Order advertising - £10,000
- New machine - £3,000
- Signage - £3,000

These upfront costs will be covered from existing budgets and external funding sources.

## 6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 is not implemented.	Approve the Order to allow for the proposed changes to be legally implemented and car park enforcement to be delivered across the Council owned car parks.

## 7. Other options considered

7.1 This is a legal requirement to allow changes on how the Council enforces in the car parks. With the expiry of the Experimental Orders, introduction of EV charging at Enderby Leisure Centre and the decision to charge at Bouskell Park, introducing a new Parking Order is the only option.

## **8. Environmental impact**

- 8.1 The installation of EV chargers at Enderby Leisure Centre would encourage the use of greener vehicles, having a positive impact on both Net Zero targets and local air quality. Offering Season Tickets as a parking option in more of our car parks may reduce the number of daily parking tickets some people buy. This will reduce waste from the car parks by decreasing the number of paper tickets issued.

## **9. Other significant issues**

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

## **10. Appendix**

- 10.1 Appendix A – The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024

## **11. Background paper(s)**

- 11.1 There are no relevant background papers for this report.

## **12. Report author's contact details**

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