

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PARKING PERMITS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council currently charges for off street car parks where the demand for parking is greatest. The charging from car parks helps to ensure there is a turnover of parking spaces available, provides a management regime which is positive in terms of traffic management and also creates a financial surplus which is used as an income stream contributing to the Council budget.
- 1.2 Off street charging car parks are traditional parking machines where daily tickets can be purchased for cash. Parking permits are available to purchase for periods of 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 12 months. To provide an enhanced service, the Council has been considering the introduction of weekly and monthly parking permits as well as providing the ability to purchase car parking by phone. An app has already been introduced called Paysmarti which enables people to pay using their mobile phone across a number of car parks.
- 1.3 It is suggested that the new scheme for weekly and monthly tickets together with the introduction of purchasing parking by Direct Debit is piloted in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area for a 12 month period. If successful, the scheme will be rolled out across the whole of Argyll and Bute. The pilot is suggested to enable any implementation issues to be tested in one location prior to a wider roll out.

It is recommended that Members

- Approve the introduction of weekly and monthly parking permits to be piloted in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area for a 12 month period.
- Endorse the proposed fees for the new charges which will be subject to approval by Council as part of its consideration of the budget.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PARKING PERMITS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of changes to parking permits and parking payment methods for consideration. The report also proposes to introduce a greater level of choice by introducing weekly and monthly permits.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members
- Approve the introduction of weekly and monthly parking permits to be piloted in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area for a 12 month period.
 - Endorse the proposed fees for the new charges which will be subject to approval by Council as part of its consideration of the budget.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 This report is proposing to offer a greater choice to individuals wishing to use Council car parks. This greater choice will be offered via the introduction of weekly and monthly parking permits for off street car parks. It is proposed that the weekly and monthly parking permits will be initially introduced in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area on a trial basis. This will allow the demand for these shorter duration parking permits to be monitored together with any implications for parking income. The pilot scheme would restrict the use of these shorter duration tickets to specified car parks within the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area. Parking permit arrangements in all other areas will remain unchanged until the effectiveness of the pilot has been reviewed.

Current Parking Permit Charges

- 4.2 Our fees and charges currently allow for paid for parking to be purchased via parking machines (some mobile phone payment) on an hourly basis. Permits are also available from council offices for off street car parks, for 12, 9, 6 and 3 months as detailed in the table below.

Monthly Permit (2018/19 prices)

Permit Type	One off Cost (£s)	Equivalent Cost per Month based on one off payment
12 months	£475	£39.60
9 months	£360	£40
6 months	£250	£41.67
3 months	£135	£45
1 month	£60	£60

Oban Lorn and the Isles Pilot Proposal

- 4.3 This reports proposes introducing additional options to purchase a permit for one month or one week. The permits represent a significant discount compared to daily charges, designed to make them affordable for those who require to park regularly in the town.
- 4.4 The introduction of a direct debit payment option provides an additional convenience and the opportunity to spread the cost. Direct debits could be set up for a one off payment of the annual charge or as a monthly charge. Either type of direct debit would be set up to run continuously unless the customer cancels the direct debit arrangement, which they can do at any time. The monthly direct debit costs are more expensive than initial one off purchase to reflect the administrative burden resulting from the need to undertake a manual reconciliation of the financial systems and the software used by the wardens'. However, this provides customers with a range of options and choices for car park charges. This will be reviewed as part of the pilot.

Monthly Permit 2019/2020

Permit Type	One off Cost (£s)	Equivalent Cost per Month based on one off payment	Cost of Full payment by Direct Debit	Cost of monthly direct debit	Cost for full year via monthly direct debit
12 months	£489	£40.75	£489	£50	£600
9 months	£371	£41.22	n/a		
6 months	£258	£43.00	n/a		
3 months	£139	£46.33	n/a		
1 month	£60	£60	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: The prices in this table have been increased to reflect the proposed inflationary increase for 2019/20, subject to its approval by Council.

- 4.5 Weekly permits would be available to purchase in advance and these are detailed along with the current costs if purchased through the parking machines in the table below.

<u>Weekly ticket</u>	<u>2019/20 prices</u>		
Car Park	Tariff	Total £/week	Comments
Ganavan, Lochavullin and Longsdale Car Parks	2 hours free, Mon-Sat 9.00 to 18.00, Sunday charged 13.00 to 18.00	£49.50	£45.00 = Current charge if paid via the parking machine to park for a week, returning to the car park daily.
OLI & H&L standard charges	Mon-Sat 9.00 to 18.00, Sun 13.00 to 18.00	£64.90	£59.00 = Current charge if paid via the parking machine to park for a week returning to the car park daily.
B&C standard charges	Mon-Sat 9.00 to 18.00	£59.40	£54.00 = Current charge if paid via the parking machine to park for a week returning to the car park daily.
If full week is at maximum charge	Mon-Sun 9,00 to 18.00	£69.30	£63.00 = Current charge if paid via the parking machine to park for a week returning to the car park daily.
Proposed weekly ticket	Could be used in any car park within the Admin Area	£30.00	The intended use of this ticket is for customers who require to utilise our car parks for periods of up to a week but it is not intended to replace the permits we offer. This will cater for those using an area as a base, e.g. visiting the islands (cycling perhaps), yachting or tourism in and around a location.

Note: The prices in this table have been increased to reflect the proposed inflationary increase for 2019/20, subject to its approval by Council.

- 4.6 At the end of the 12 month trial period, the implications of this proposal will be reported back to Members.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report proposes that weekly and monthly parking permits are made available for off street car parks. The fees associated with these new parking charges are set out within the body of the report and will be included as part of the Council's Fees and Charges 19/20 through the budget setting process.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – this report introduces a new policy in terms of a greater choice for members of the public when purchasing parking tickets.
- 6.2 Financial – any financial implications of this policy will be monitored over the first 12 months following introduction.
- 6.3 Legal – none known
- 6.4 HR – none known
- 6.5 Equalities / Fairer Scotland Duty – none known
- 6.6 Risk – potential to under recover car parking income due to offering weekly and monthly tickets at a reduced rate from that of the current daily charge.
- 6.7 Customer Service – none known

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