



# Report for Officer Decision

**Date:** 14/10/20

**Reference number:**

**Title:** Aylesbury Vale Parking Orders

**Relevant councillor(s):** Councillor David Martin

**Decision Making Officer:** Rob Smith (Director of Highways & Technical Services)

**Author and/or contact officer:** Julie Rushton (Interim Head of Off-Street Parking)

**Ward(s) affected:** Aylesbury North

## Recommendations:

To consider the recommendation below regarding two multi-storey car parks in Aylesbury Town Centre.

1. Amend the Off Street parking orders to change the payment method in Upper Hundreds and Walton Street Multi-Storey car parks from pay on foot to pay and display.

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks officer decision approval to amend the parking order(s) to introduce the changes, as per the recommendation above.

## 2. Content of report

- 2.1 Prior to the establishment of the Unitary Council, the legacy Aylesbury Vale District Council obtained approval to upgrade the payment machines in Upper Hundreds and Walton Street Multi-Storey car parks as part of their wider Parking Car Park Strategy (Cabinet Decision ref minute 24/10/18 No.7). The upgrade is from pay on foot machines to pay and display machines. This aligns with the payment method in the three other multi-storey car parks in Aylesbury Vale.
- 2.2 Changing the payment methods also provides greater flexibility and is more user friendly for customers with disabilities who are in receipt of a Blue Badge. Currently, Blue Badge holders are required to take their badge to the office in Upper Hundreds car park to have their parking validated. In Walton Street, the car park is unstaffed and therefore Blue Badge holders are required to pay to park if they wish to use this car park. The limitations for Blue Badges is due to the barrier controlled system which supports the current pay of foot payment methods. Pay and display operations will enable Blue Badge holders to park for free, as per the other car parks in Aylesbury, without the inconvenience of seeking assistance for car park validation.

- 2.3 To enable effective enforcement of the parking controls and ensure the car parks can be appropriately managed to meet user needs, there is a requirement to amend the Off Street Parking Orders to change the payment methods listed in the parking order schedule. This change will complement the existing pay by phone option, which is currently supplied by RingGo.
- 2.4 Under delegations as set out in the Constitution, a statutory consultation has taken place to amend the aforementioned parking orders. The consultation, which commenced on Wednesday 9/9/20, ended on Sunday 11/10/20. In reply to the consultation the Council has received two responses. These are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of Comments	Response
<p>It is not always easy to gauge how much parking time is required. If things take longer than expected you can end up not doing everything you want, or having to rush around. The previous payment option enabled customers to pay on return and only for actual time on park via machines that gave change. This meant there was no need for paper for the tickets. It also assisted if an incident occurs and you are unable to return to your vehicle due to an accident.</p> <p>There will be a requirement to have payment machines at least on each level, possibly more in Walton Street car park. Please retain option to pay by cash.</p> <p>To reduce difficulty for Blue badge holders, a nearby car park could be designated as Blue Badge holders only.</p>	<p>In addition to the proposals, customers may pay for parking using RingGo. This is a mobile phone payment provider that allows customers to top up their parking time without the need to return to the car park. This option also removes the worry of having the correct change for the car park, or the need to display a 'pay and display' ticket in the windscreen of the vehicle.</p> <p>One payment machine will be placed on each level of the car park with clear signage directing customers to the nearest machine. Recognising that customers have different preferences on how to pay for parking, The Council opts to retain credit/debit card, and cash payment options.</p> <p>The proposal enables Blue Badge holders to park free of charge aligning with other Council car parks throughout Buckinghamshire, and also provides a more user friendly service for customers with reduced mobility. This supports the Council's objectives of accessible services for all.</p>

### 3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Consideration has been given to not replacing the equipment in the multi-storey car parks and instead to retain the existing equipment carrying out repairs as and when required. The existing equipment is however old and repeatedly breaks down. This is costly and creates inconvenience for customers. The option to delay the project is therefore not in the best interest of the Council or the customers

## **4. Legal and financial implications**

### Legal

- 4.1 The statutory consultation forms part of a legal process to amend the Off-Street Parking Places Order. The Council has a statutory duty to consider and respond to the comments/objections received and then decide whether to make the Order with or without modification to the proposals consulted on.

### Finance

- 4.2 There are no financial implications to amending the parking order to change the payment methods from pay on foot to pay and display.

## **5. Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 Appendix A details the Equality Impact Assessment for this report.
- 5.2 Effective and efficient parking management contributes towards the Council's aim to deliver value for money services that are driven by customer and community needs.

## **6. Consultation and communication**

- 6.1 Statutory consultation is in accordance with The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). This included a legal Notice in the press, Notice to Thames Valley Police, and Notice to Aylesbury Vale Town Council.
- 6.2 In addition, consultation papers were made available at The Gateway, Aylesbury, throughout the two car parks, and on the Council's website; thus ensuring we meet our statutory obligations.

## **7. Next steps and review**

- 7.1 Subject to receiving approval, the Amendment Order will be made and implemented on Monday 16/11/20.

## **8. Background papers**

- 8.1 None

# Appendix A

## Equality Impact Assessment

### 1. State which function you are assessing and identify who should be involved in the equality impact analysis

<b>Policy/Service Area Selected</b>
Parking Services
<b>What function, policy, procedure or practice is being assessed?</b>
A review has been undertaken of the parking equipment in Upper Hundreds and Walton Street Multi-Storey car parks in Aylesbury Vale Town Centre to change from pay on foot to pay and display. This aligns with the payment method in the three other multi-storey car parks in Aylesbury Vale and also complements the existing pay by phone option, which is currently supplied by RingGo.
<b>Who is responsible for it? Council or Other Organisation/Partnership?</b>
Council - Highway & Technical Services
<b>What are the aims and objectives of the function, policy, procedure or practice?</b>
To provide fit for purpose parking equipment that is cost effective to maintain and supports customer expectations.
<b>Who are the key stakeholders?</b>
Buckinghamshire Council Members General public Residents Businesses Visitors to the town
<b>Lead Officer for this analysis</b>
Julie Rushton Interim Head of Off Street Parking
<b>Others consulted and involved in the analysis</b>
none

### 2. Identify the scope of the equality impact assessment

Please provide a summary of:

- What is to be included in this impact assessment/what issues will you consider? i.e. are all aspects of the policy/service to be covered or is it confined to a limited area? Please explain. This is likely to reflect the relevance to equality of different aspects.
- Does this service/policy have link to other service areas, or other Equality Impact Assessments?

The assessment provides an analysis of the impact of amending the parking orders to enable the car parks to be effectively managed.

**3. State the data that you have considered for this assessment and any gaps in data identified. What action will be taken to close any data gaps?**

Machine design.  
No gaps in data have been identified

**4. Assess the impact the process has on equality with reference to different groups or communities. To do this, consider the questions in the EIA guidance, which relate to unequal outcomes or disadvantage; access barriers; unmet needs; encouraging participation; fostering good relations. The Equality Impact Assessment Checklist may also be helpful at this stage.**

<b>Race Equality</b>
Impact: low - No negative impacts identified
<b>Disabled People</b>
Impact: low - No negative impacts identified Disabled Drivers will receive free parking.
<b>Gender</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>Older and Younger People</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>People who are Socio-Economically Disadvantaged</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>Religion or Belief</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>
Impact: low - No negative issues identified

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

<b>What are the main conclusions from this analysis?</b>
The analysis shows that the protected groups will not be impacted by the recommendations set out in the report.
<b>What are your recommendations?</b>
<p><b>Equality objectives and targets to address the unequal impact/unmet needs/barriers/low participation</b> No issues identified</p> <p><b>Suggested actions to meet those targets</b> There's no evidence of adverse impact at present, as such a full EIA is not required.</p>

## 6. Consult stakeholders on main findings and conclusions of the equality impact analysis and ask for comments. State consultation and inclusion methodology.

<b><i>The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used</i></b>
The paper is initially an internal paper for CMT to enable the recommendations set out in the Handy Cross Tariff paper to be assessed and the paper updated accordingly before being presented to Informal Cabinet

## 9. Equality impact analysis sign off

Name	Position	Date
Julie Rushton	Interim Head of Off Street Parking	14/10/20