

DEPUTY LEADER

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Deputy Leader's Portfolio:-

MONDAY 20th JANUARY, 2020

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Councillor Cox | - Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader's Portfolio |
| Councillor Zaman | - Major Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Hayes | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Hornby | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Heslop | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |

Officers

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. J. Hundal | - Interim Assistant Director
Economic Development and
Regeneration |
| Ms. J. Duxbury | - Estates and Property
Development Manager (Town
Centres) |
| Ms. J. Pollard | - Head of Strategic Finance and
Accountancy |
| Ms. S. Woodall | - Senior Lawyer |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | - Democratic Services Manager |

30. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

31. REVISION TO FREE PARKING IN BOLTON TOWN CENTRE

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to a revised free parking scheme in Bolton Town Centre.

By way of background, the Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that in 2012 approval was given to introduce a free parking pilot scheme in order to address the negative perception of Bolton town centre parking charges compared to other local destinations and to increase footfall to the town centre. Due to the success of the scheme approval was given to introduce free parking in NCP car parks over weekend and bank holidays in May, 2013 for a period of two years and also include free parking after 3.00 p.m. Monday to Friday to support the festive period. It was explained that the scheme had been extended on an annual basis and was due for renewal on 31st January, 2020.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that as the number of users taking advantage of the free parking scheme had increased the costs borne by the Council had similarly gone up significantly. Furthermore, it also appeared from the patronage data there were also several commuters taking advantage of the free provision. The Council's share of NCP car parking income had also significantly reduced to increased costs of operations and lower income and, this had resulted in the Council's equity share declining from over £300,000 per annum on average to around £25,000 in 2018/2019.

In view of the above, it was considered necessary to revise the structure of the free parking scheme to ensure that whilst it continued to fulfil its original aim of attracting shoppers and visitors to support the businesses it did not benefit commuters. It was therefore proposed that the present scheme be revised whereby discounted parking was restricted to a maximum of 2 hours at a flat rate of £1 at weekends and on bank holidays.

NCP would be reimbursed based on patronage and duration of parking and the costs would be closely monitored during the year. It was also pointed out that parking in excess of 2 hours would be payable at normal NCP tariffs.

In terms of the financial implications, the Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the cost of free parking, as outlined in the report, from the end of the present scheme up to 31st August, 2020 was in the order of £50,000 based on the projected take-up. This could be met from anticipated income share of the Council from NCP and existing departmental budgets.

The scheme would be reviewed on an annual basis in future to ensure that it remained affordable for the Council.

The Executive Cabinet APPROVED the revision to the free parking scheme to allow for up to 2 hours of discounted parking for a flat charge of £1 on weekends and bank holidays in Bolton Town Centre until 31st August, 2020 and that the Director of Place be authorised to implement the changes.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and report in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

32. PSP – SURPLUS PROPERTY PROJECT PHASE 3 SITES

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval for the disposal of land at Alderbank Close, Bolton to be progressed by PSP Bolton LLP.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the land concerned was considered Public Open Space and as such any potential loss must also be advertised in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972. Any representations received would be reported to a future meeting.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The disposal of Council owned land at Alderbank Close, Bolton to PSP Bolton LLP; and AUTHORISED –**
- (ii) The Director of Place to conclude negotiations for the disposal of the land to PSP Bolton LLP as part of the Surplus Property Project subject to the outcome of the Public Open Space procedure; and**
- (iii) The Borough Solicitor to carry out all necessary legal formalities.**

In accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution this decision was called in by Councillor Heslop for consideration by the Place Scrutiny Committee.