

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

Decision Made: 07 April 2020

Changes to Civil Parking Enforcement

Decision Made

Changes to Civil Parking Enforcement as a result of guidance from the Local Government Association and the British Parking Association in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

That the traffic regulation orders in relation to resident parking bays and single yellow lines where waiting time is restricted for 30 minutes, are not enforced to support residents and business until 1 July 2020.

That resident parking permits and business permits are valid in off-street car parks to ease on-street parking demand until 1 July 2020.

That free parking concessions are applied in all off-street car parks to provide parking for NHS and Social Care workers.

That the car parks at Mote Park, Cobtree Park and Lockmeadow are closed to facilitate public social distancing in line with Government guidelines.

Reasons for Decision

The Covid-19 outbreak has led to a significant increase in residential home working and cases of self-isolation.

Although it remains important to ensure that yellow line restrictions are controlled in residential areas to ensure safe parking and traffic flow for emergency vehicles and waste collection, it has become necessary to review restrictions placed in resident parking areas to support local residents and business during this period of high parking demand up until 1 July 2020.

This decision is in line with guidance from the Local Government Association and the British Parking Association in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

In addition to these concessions and following an announcement by Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, local councils in England have been instructed to provide free car parking for NHS staff and social care workers in off-street car parks during the coronavirus outbreak.

Social distancing measures announced by the Government have also led to car park closures Mote Park, Cobtree Park and Lockmeadow.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

Civil parking enforcement operations can continue as defined with Traffic Regulation Orders; however, this would not recognise the significant impact on residents and businesses caused as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Details of the Committee

The decision has been taken in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee.