

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Friday, 6 December 2019

Elected Member Car Parking

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is recommended to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve the removal of free parking spaces provided to Councillors; and,
 - 1.1.2 Approve the proposed vehicle access restrictions on use of the Quadrangle as detailed in this report.

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Executive Director of resources

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Elected Member Car Parking

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council has recently considered questions and motions regarding elected member car parking arrangements and the related vehicle use of the Quadrangle in front of the City Chambers. This report recommends a consistent and clear approach for the future, by proposing the removal of all free car parking spaces and restricting vehicle access to and use of the Quadrangle.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 14 March 2019, the Council considered a question from Councillor Corbett that stated “Further to the Council meeting in 31 May 2018 and the oral answer given by the Convenor to the supplementary question to 5.2:

1. *What progress has been made on the review of councillors free car parking passes?*
2. *Which councillors have passes for the APCOA parking at Waverley Court; George IV bridge (Central library); and any other parking in the vicinity of the City Chambers.*

- 3.2 On 19 September 2019, the Council approved the following motion by Councillor Claire Miller and amendment by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group:

“Council:

Notes that drivers routinely use the quadrangle of City Chambers to park vehicles for prolonged periods of time;

Agrees that vehicles usage of the quadrangle should be restricted to legitimate and responsible use, and asks Council officers to prepare a report for the Finance and Resources Committee on the following:

- i) What criteria exist to permit vehicle access to the quadrangle and, if different, the criteria to be allowed to park there;*
- ii) To what extent the quadrangle is being used for long periods (i.e. more than 1-2 hours) or on a regular basis (i.e. more than once a week) by particular categories of users;*

- iii) *Proposals on how access and parking could be better managed/restricted to ensure only legitimate and reasonable use; and*
- iv) *The report to include an update on the review of Councillors free parking passes as requested at the March Council meeting.*

3.3 The purpose of this report is to address the content of the question and the Council approved motion and amendment, to provide clarity for future use.

4. Main report

Councillor Car Parking

4.1 In response to the question to Council, on 14 March 2019, elected members were asked to confirm their position regarding Councillor car parking. The significant majority of formal responses received were consistent in the opinion that the privilege of having a free parking space should be removed. Consequently, and in the absence of any alternative option, it is proposed that all Councillor free car parking spaces are removed from use.

The Quadrangle at the City Chambers

4.2 There is no current, documented policy relating to the use of the Quadrangle by vehicles. The absence of a formal policy has the practical effect that on a day to day, the presumption has been applied that it should not be used for car parking.

4.3 As part of the engagement with elected members, referred to in paragraph 4.1, all formal responses supported the position that car parking in the Quadrangle should cease and then be enforced. On the basis that restrictions are now to be put place, subject to approval by Committee, and that legitimate and responsible use will be enforced, it is proposed that all vehicles are banned with the exception of the following:

- Emergency services;
- Official Council, Lord Provost / Lord Lieutenancy, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies specific business;
- Wedding reception vehicles;
- Essential maintenance vehicle access;
- Essential operational business, e.g., CCTV operations
- Any necessary parking to provide reasonable adjustments as part of our accessibility requirements arising from the Equality Act.

4.4 Notwithstanding the exceptions listed above, every effort will be made to ensure that these uses are kept to a minimum with the use of the Cockburn Street entrance encouraged.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The recommendations of this report, if approved, will be formally communicated as policy and will then be implemented and enforced from 1 January 2020.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts arising from this report

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 All elected members were asked to consider these proposals in March 2019.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 N/A

9. Appendices

- 9.1 N/A