

REPORT TO:		Special Scrutiny Committee	
DATE:		27 September 2022	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Marlene Haworth - Deputy Leader of the Council	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Ben Caulfield, Policy and Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Accrington Town Centre Parking	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	Options	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	Options	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with information relating to current arrangements for both on and off street parking in Accrington Town Centre.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the current on and off street parking arrangements in Accrington Town Centre.
- 2.2 That the Committee questions the representatives of Lancashire County Council Highways and Hyndburn Borough Council.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 A review of Accrington town centre parking arrangements was added to the work programme of this committee by Councillors. Some Councillors expressed views that the mix of parking arrangements and time limits was confusing for both residents and out of town visitors and could in fact discourage people from using the town centre.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Officer invited representatives from Lancashire County Council and Hyndburn Borough Council to attend the meeting and respond to questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member for Highways at Lancashire County Council, County Cllr Charlie Edwards has sent apologies for the meeting, but has indicated that he and colleagues are happy to respond to any questions or suggested changes relating to town centre parking from the Committee.

- 3.3 There are 840 public spaces in the area deemed as Accrington Town Centre, 418 off street (public car parks) and 422 on street. All of these spaces are free to use for the public and vary by length of stay permitted as follows:
- 1 hour parking – 92 spaces
 - 2 hour parking – 168 spaces
 - 30 minute parking – 10 spaces
 - 3 hour parking – 6 spaces
 - All day parking – 525 spaces
 - Disabled parking only – 24 spaces
 - Loading/Unloading – 15 spaces
- 3.4 A breakdown of the locations of these spaces can be seen in appendix 1.
- 3.5 Using the above figures, this demonstrates that 62.5% of all public spaces in the town centre are available for all day parking, although the majority of these would be classed as being on the edges of the town centre. Appendix 2 is a map of public parking spaces highlighting the time limit for each area.
- 3.6 All of the above parking spaces are free.
- 3.7 In terms of parking enforcement, off street parking is the responsibility of Hyndburn Borough Council and on street parking is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.
- 3.8 The Town centre is also served by numerous privately owned car parks, some of which are available to the public free of charge (for example Tesco has a 3 hour limit for customers) and some available with a small charge (for example Arndale Centre charge £1 per day). Neither Lancashire County Council or Hyndburn Borough Council have the authority to determine the parking rules applied to privately own car parks.
- 3.9 More recently, a number of previous car parking spaces have been re-designated as electrical vehicle charging points with the installation of the relevant charging equipment. One rapid charger taking two parking bays was installed on St James Street several years ago and three fast chargers covering 6 parking bays have been installed on Bridge Street.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 **Not applicable**

5. Consultations

5.1 Not applicable

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None related to this report
Legal and human rights implications	Not applicable
Assessment of risk	Not applicable
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Bot applicable

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

7.1 *None*

8. Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.