

STATEMENT OF REASONS

RE- LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL (OFF-STREET CAR PARK, LEICESTER) (ARTICLES/INTERPRETATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL METHOD OF PAYMENT (PAY BY PHONE)) MINOR ORDER 2021

In order to develop and help manage the use of Off-street car parks managed by either Pay on Exit or Pay & Display around the City of Leicester, the Council is looking to introduce an alternative method of payment by the use of an electronic device such as smart phones. This method of payment is required to be added into the off-street parking order articles.

This minor change will allow for Pay by Phone (Call or App (Cashless parking)). It would enable the issuing of virtual tickets, virtual permits or the use of virtual season tickets. These changes can be introduced by the processing of a Minor Order. This is in line with Regulation 21(1), Schedule 4, Part 1, item 9 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) 1996.

Supporting Background Information for Proposed Minor Order.

Currently, for Pay & Display car parks, the driver of a vehicle has the option to pay at the ticket machine and display the ticket in the relevant position in the windscreen of a vehicle or in a prominent position on a vehicle if it is not fitted with a windscreen. The amendment to the articles, will allow drivers to use a mobile device and pay for their parking time in line with the requirements of that car park.

This electronic payment would create a virtual parking ticket that will be recorded on the Council's data base. The virtual ticket will be visible to the council or its agent via the data base to another electronic mobile device when being used for confirming payment and compliance linked to enforcement of the parking spaces. The driver will be informed by text message that they have pay for their parking and when the virtual ticket will expire.

Using the Pay by Phone method would also allow for payment for virtual Permits or a virtual parking Card. A parking Card acts like a season ticket and can allow for an individual or a business to purchase a block period for parking (1 month, 3, 6, 9 months or one year) within the Off-street parking area. The council may offer a discounted rate for bulk bookings. A person with a valid parking Card (the "Card Holder") would be subject to its terms and conditions.

An off-street car park could now be one of the following types: -

- Pay on Exit,
- Pay & Display with Pay by Phone or
- Pay by Phone Only

Small or remote off-street car parking areas could operate better as a Pay by Phone only sites. This reduces the cost on the council's budgets, by not having to install and maintain expensive infrastructure such as Pay & Display machines. This also removes the anti-social behaviour element of vandalism or even theft from the ticket machines. The only requirement would be the installation of signs and other information plates, that would help users of that car park, with registering with the council or its agent to use the Pay by Phone option. Once registered, it is easier for a person to use other Pay by Phone sites within the City of Leicester.

Cashless payment systems provide significant benefits for both the council and the customer. The Pay by Phone option for Pay & Display car parks, would allow motorists to make an informed choice relating to the method of payment. In addition, it can also allow the motorist the option to pay for additional time within a car park when they receive a text warning message advising that their paid for time is due to expire. This means that a motorist need not rush back to the car park or have to find the correct change for the ticket machines. The option to pay by phone can also assist if a machine has malfunctioned.

Introducing this Minor Order will allow for these additional payment options to be incorporated into the various off-street parking Orders. All articles for these types of Orders will be amended accordingly.