

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEGAL SERVICES

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Subject Matter: The Borough Council of Sandwell (Off-Street Parking Places Order No.25)
(Free Parking Experimental Order) 2026

Minute Number: Individual Cabinet Member decision signed on 28th July 2026 (copy
attached)

Committee: Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways

I certify the attached document(s) for sealing / signature on 25th August 2026



Case Officer signature

**Have all recommendations in the report been implemented? Please state
or confirm if not relevant -**

**All recommendations have been actioned in accordance to the decision of the
Cabinet Member.**



Case Officer signature

Date:

File reference:

Principal Solicitor signature

Seal Number: 62868

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER No. 25) (Free Parking Experimental Order) 2026

The Borough Council of Sandwell (herein referred to as the "the Council") in exercise of its powers under sections 9, 10 32, 33, 35 and Part IV schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Road Traffic Act 1991 and the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) Order 2000 and all other enabling powers hereby makes the following Order:-

PART I

GENERAL

1. Commencement and Citation

- 1** This Order shall come into operation on the 01st September 2026 and may be cited as The Borough Council of Sandwell (Off-Street Parking Places Order No.25) (Free Parking Experimental Order) 2026.

- i) Any reference to a statutory or non-statutory provision shall also refer to its successor in title for as long as that power is delegated to the Council
- ii) This legal order shall be put in place by way of an 'experimental' legal order and so shall not be in place for a period exceeding longer then 18 calendar months.

The restrictions imposed by this order shall be in addition to and not in derogation from any restriction or requirements imposed by regulations made or having an affect as if made under any other enactment.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1** In this Order, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them:-

"the Act 1984" means the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

"Bus" has the same meaning as Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016;

"Cashless Payment" means a method of payment whereby the charge levied under the Council's tariff of charges (and any appropriate administration charge) is collected by the Service Provider, via an arranged account, with payment being made over the Telephone or Electronic Payment System (including via the internet) by credit or debit card or other means of secure authorised payment to allow the vehicle to be parked for the period of time for which payment has been made and available for use as a parking charge payment method where such facility is advertised and provided for in a Payment Parking Place and use of which is specified by notice in the Payment Parking place;

"Civil Enforcement Officer" means a person authorised by or on behalf of the Council to carry out any duties in relation to the Parking Places listed in Part II of this Order;

"Coach" means a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 8 passengers (exclusive of the driver);

"Coach parking space" means a Parking Space designated for the use of Coaches and Buses;

"Council" means Sandwell Metroploitan Borough Council;

"Disabled Person's Badge" has the same meaning as in the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000;

"Disabled Person's Vehicle" has the same meaning as in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000;

"Driver" in relation to a Motor Vehicle waiting in a Parking Place, means the person driving the Motor Vehicle at the time it was left in the Parking Place;

"Electric Vehicle" means a vehicle in which the electrical motive power is derived from an electrical storage battery which is not connected to any source of power when the vehicle is in motion. Hybrid vehicles with a battery charged by connecting a lead to an electricity supply are included in this category;

"Electric Vehicle Parking Space" means a Parking Space designated for the use of Electric Vehicles only;

"Hackney Carriage" and "Taxi" means a Hackney Carriage vehicle licenced under section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and shall be:

- a) licensed by the Council; and
- b) attended by the Driver and available for hire;

"Handheld Device" for the purpose of this Order, means a wireless handheld computer which is programmed to interface with the telephone or electronic payment system for the purposes of verifying if parking charges have been paid in respect of specific vehicle registrations of vehicles waiting in any Parking Place;

"Ice Cream Van" a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed or adapted to facilitate the retail sale of ice cream or other similar substances and refreshments to individual customers;

"Ice Cream Van Parking Space" means a parking space designated for the use of an Ice Cream Van;

"Loading" and "Unloading" means commercial Loading/Unloading or the delivery or collection of objects too heavy or bulky (Goods) to be carried very far by hand and where no Payment or transaction takes place; and this includes postal packets of any description;

"Loading Parking Space" means a Parking Space designated for the use of a vehicle waiting during the process of actively Loading, Unloading, setting down or picking up a passenger from the vehicle;

"Market Traders" means vehicles connected with trades or businesses operating from an area of land or retail premises which has been designated as a market place for multiple businesses to trade.

"Minibus" means means a motor vehicle with between 9 and 16 passenger seats;

"Minibus Parking Space" means a Parking Space designated for the use of Minibuses;

"Motorcycle" has the same meaning as in Section 136 of the Act 1984;

"Motor Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Section 136 of the Act 1984;

"Owner" in relation to a vehicle means the person by whom the vehicle was kept, which in the case of a vehicle registered under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (Section 22) is presumed (unless the contrary is proved) to be the person in whose name the vehicle is registered except that the meaning of "owner" shall have the meaning in Regulation 6 of the Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Approved Devices, Charging Guidelines and General Provisions) (England) Regulations 2022 in respect of a person who is served a penalty charge notice hiring a vehicle under a hiring agreement and the person hiring the vehicle had signed a statement of liability acknowledging his liability in respect of any parking contravention during the currency of the hiring agreement.

"Parking Disc" means the disc issued by the Local Authority complying with the requirements of Regulation 8(5) of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000 and capable of showing the quarter hour period during which a period of waiting began.

"Parking Place" means each area of land specified by name in **Column 1 of Schedule 2** to this Order;

"Parking Space" means a place authorised by this Order to be used as a Parking Place used for the parking of a single Motor Vehicle;

"Parking Ticket" means a ticket lawfully obtained from a Ticket Machine provided by the Council or through partnership for the issue of Parking Tickets appropriately dated and time stamped relating to Scale 1, Scale 2, Scale 4, Scale 5, Scale 8 and Scale 11 of Schedule 1 of this Order or obtained by the Telephone or Electronic Payment System and recorded on a Handheld Device;

"Payment Parking Place" means a Parking Place to which a payment for parking applies on leaving a vehicle in that Parking Place designated as such by this Order and where payment of the parking charge is made by means of a Ticket Machine or a Telephone or Electronic Payment System;

"Permit" means a Permit or Virtual Permit issued by the Council under the provisions of this Order;

"person authorised" means an employee or agent of the Council authorised to exercise all or any of the functions of the Council under this Order;

"Private Hire Vehicle" has the same meaning given in Section 80 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, including Uber vehicles;

"Recharging Post" means a device designed for the recharging of Electric Vehicles;

"Registered Keeper" means the person who at the time of any contravention or non-compliance with this Order was the person in whose name the Motor Vehicle was registered with the Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority or its successor;

"Relevant Position" has the same meaning as in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000 and means:-

I) A badge is displayed in the "Relevant Position" if –

- the badge is exhibited on the dashboard or fascia of the vehicle, or
- where the vehicle is not fitted with a dashboard or fascia, the badge is exhibited in a conspicuous position on the vehicle,

so that the front of the badge, in accordance with the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000, is clearly legible from the outside of the vehicle.

II) A Parking Disc is displayed in the "Relevant Position" if –

- the disc is exhibited on the dashboard or fascia of the vehicle, or
- where the vehicle is not fitted with a dashboard or fascia, the disc is exhibited in a conspicuous position on the vehicle,

so that, when marked to show the quarter-hour period during which a period of waiting began, that period is clearly legible from the outside of the vehicle.

"Residents Parking Permit" means a permit or Virtual Permit to park a Motor Vehicle issued by the Council under Clause 8.3 of this Order;

"Season Ticket" means a ticket or Virtual Season Ticket provided by the Council to park a Motor Vehicle relating to Scale 3, Scale 6 and Scale 12 of Schedule 1 of this Order and issued by the Council under Clause 8.2 of this Order as -

a) A hard copy Season Ticket produced on paper, card or similar issued by the Council;

b) A Virtual Season Ticket

"Service Provider" or "Agent" means the contractor authorised by the Council to accept payment of the parking charge, either for a Parking Ticket, or a Permit or both, on its behalf and to keep a record of that Parking Charge and the vehicle, Parking Place and the parking period in respect of which payment has been made using the Telephone or Electronic Payment System;

"Taxi Parking Space" means a Parking Space designated for the use of Hackney Carriages and Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles only;

"Telephone or Electronic Payment System" means a system to facilitate and monitor the payment of the Parking Charge using the telephone or internet enabled device via communication with the service provider, in accordance with instructions indicated on signs located at or in the vicinity of each Parking Place;

"Ticket Machine" means a ticket issuing machine provided by the Council for the issue of Parking Tickets appropriately dated and time stamped and approved in accordance with Section 35(3) of the Act of 1984.

"Virtual Permit" means an electronic record of a permit issued and confirmed by the Council that is required to be accessible using Handheld Device on an electronic database approved by the Council to exempt a vehicle from restriction under the provisions of this order;

"Virtual Season Ticket" means an electronic record of a Season Ticket issued and confirmed by the Council which indicates the vehicle registration mark, the period during which the Season Ticket is valid and the names of the Parking Places in respect of which the Season Ticket is valid.

2.2 Any reference in this Order to any enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended by any subsequent enactment.

PART II

AUTHORISATION AND USE OF PARKING PLACES

3. Each of the Parking Places specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order is authorised to be used subject to the following provisions of this Order, as a Parking Place for such Motor Vehicles, on such days and during such hours as are specified in relation to that Parking Place in Column 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order.
 - 3.1 The operating hours specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order for Parking Places specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order shall not apply to part of a Parking Place marked by signs, lines, studs or other indications so as to indicate its provision as a Parking Space for a Motorcycle, a Disabled Persons Vehicle or an Electric Vehicle. A Parking Space for a Motorcycle, a Disabled Persons Vehicle or an Electric Vehicle shall be in operation at all times.
4. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle shall not permit it to wait in such part of a Parking Place as is marked by signs, lines, studs or other indications so as to indicate its provision as a Parking Space for:-
 - 4.1 a Bus, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is a Bus or Coach;
 - 4.2 a Coach, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait Coach or Bus.
 - 4.3 a Disabled Persons Vehicle, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is a vehicle which displays a valid Disabled Person's Badge in the vehicle in a conspicuous position facing forward at the front of the vehicle so that the information printed on the front of the badge is clearly visible to a person standing in front of the vehicle;
 - 4.4 an Electric Vehicle, unless it is an Electric Vehicle left during the process of actively recharging with electricity via the recharging lead while connected to the Recharging Post relating to that Parking Place.
 - 4.5 an Ice Cream Van, unless it is a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed or adapted to facilitate the retail sale of ice cream or other similar substances and refreshments to individual customers and is operating as a trader at the Parking Place with the permission of the Council.
 - 4.6 a Loading Parking Space, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is parked for the purpose of being loaded or unloaded in connection with a trade or business at adjacent to the Parking Place.
 - 4.7 a Market Trader, unless the Motor Vehicle so permitted to wait is a Motor Vehicle which displays a valid Market Parking Permit in a conspicuous position in the vehicle such that the information printed on the front of the permit is clearly visible to a person standing in front of the vehicle, or the Market Parking Permit holder has been granted a Virtual Market Parking Permit which exempts them from displaying a Permit and is accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device.
 - 4.8 a Minibus, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is a Minibus.
 - 4.9 a Motorcycle, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is a Motorcycle without a sidecar attached thereto;
 - 4.10 a Residents' Parking Permit holder, unless the Motor Vehicle so permitted to wait is a Motor Vehicle which displays a valid Residents' Parking Permit in a conspicuous position in the vehicle such that the information printed on the front of the permit is clearly visible to a person standing in front of the vehicle, or the Residents' Parking Permit holder has been granted a Virtual Residents' Parking Permit which exempts them from displaying a Permit and is accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device.
 - 4.11 Taxis, unless the vehicle so permitted to wait is a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle;
5. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle shall not permit it to wait in any Parking Place specified in Schedule 2 unless it is wholly within a marked Parking Space.
6. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a Parking Place for longer than the maximum period for waiting as specified in Column 3 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to that Parking Place.

6.1 The maximum waiting period specified in Column 3 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to a Parking Place shall not apply to a Disabled Person's Vehicle, which displays a valid Disabled Person's Badge in the vehicle in a conspicuous position facing forward at the front of the vehicle so that the information printed on the front of the badge is clearly visible to a person standing in front of the vehicle. The maximum waiting period for a Disabled Person's Vehicle in relation to a Parking Place of this Order shall be 23 hours.

6.2 The maximum waiting period specified in Column 3 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to a Parking Place shall not apply to a vehicle which displays a valid Residents Parking Permit for the zone specified on the signage for that car park or any vehicle which has been granted a Virtual Residents' Parking Permit for the zone specified on the signage for that car park which exempts them from displaying a Permit and is accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device.

6.3 "For the purposes of Clause 3, a further contravention shall be created if the Motor Vehicle remains in a Parking Place at the beginning of a period in which vehicles may be left there in pursuance of the Order and shall be treated as if it had been left there at the beginning of that period."

7. When a Motor Vehicle has left a Parking Place after waiting thereon, the Driver thereof shall not permit it to wait again upon that Parking Place within the time after its leaving as specified in Column 4 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to that Parking Place.

7.1 The no return period specified in Column 4 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to a Parking Place shall not apply to a vehicle which displays a valid Residents Parking Permit for the zone specified on the signage for that car park or any vehicle which has been granted a Virtual Residents' Parking Permit for the zone specified on the signage for that car park which exempts them from displaying a Permit and is accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device.

8. Payment Parking System

8.1 Charges - All Motor Vehicles having more than 2 wheels

- a. Subject as hereinafter provided, the Driver of a Motor Vehicle waiting in a Parking Place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order, between the hours as specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order shall, on leaving the Motor Vehicle in that Parking Place, pay the daily charges specified in Column 5 of Schedule 2 to this Order, by Cashless Payment using the Telephone or Electronic Payment System in accordance with any instructions set out in the Parking Place or by the insertion of a coin or coins for the period required into the Ticket Machine or by any means prescribed by the Council, as advertised at that Parking Place.

- i. Parking charges relating to **Scale 1, Scale 2, Scale 4 and Scale 5 of Schedule 1** of this Order shall not apply on a Saturday during the month of December, all other charges and the waiting period specified in **Columns 3 and 4 of Schedule 2** of this Order shall remain in force.
- ii. The **Scale 2 and Scale 5** parking charges specified in **Schedule 1** to this Order shall not apply on a Saturday where a current valid Season Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket has been purchased relating to **Scale 3** charges specified in **Schedule 1** to this Order. All other charges and the waiting periods specified in **Column 3 and Column 4 of Schedule 2** of this Order shall remain in force.
- iii. The **Scale 5** parking charges specified in **Schedule 1** to this Order shall not apply on a Saturday where a current valid Season Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket has been purchased relating to **Scale 6** charges specified in **Schedule 1** to this Order. All other charges and the waiting period specified in **Column 3 and Column 4 of Schedule 2** of this Order shall remain in force.

Display of Tickets

- b. Any Parking Ticket issued in receipt of payment of the charges referred to in Clause 8.1a, or a hard copy Season Ticket issued in accordance with Clause 8.2, shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the Motor Vehicle in respect of which it was issued and shall continue to be displayed in such conspicuous position during the whole of the time that the Motor Vehicle remains in the Parking Place, so that it can be read by any Civil Enforcement Officer carrying out their normal enforcement duties, unless that Parking Ticket holder or Season Ticket holder has been granted a Virtual Parking Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket issued in receipt of a Cashless Payment using the Telephone or Electronic Payment System which exempts them from displaying a Parking Ticket or Season Ticket and is accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device during the whole of the time that the Motor Vehicle remains in the Parking Place, so that it can be read by any Civil Enforcement Officer carrying out their normal enforcement duties.
- c. Following the issue and display of a ticket or registering of a ticket via the Telephone or Electronic Payment System on a Handheld Device in accordance with Clauses 8.1 (a) and (b) no further ticket shall be purchased for and displayed or registered via the Telephone or Electronic Payment System on a Handheld Device for the same vehicle whilst parked in the same Parking Place. This clause shall apply if the vehicle has remained in the Parking Place and shall also apply if it has returned to the same Parking Place after an interval of less than the duration specified in Column 4 of Schedule 2 from a previous period of waiting.
- d. Nothing in Clause 8.1 (c) shall apply if the additional ticket or tickets purchased bear an expiry time not later than the length of time specified in **Column 4 of Schedule 2** after the time of purchase of the initial ticket issued in accordance with Clause 8.1 (a).
- e. Where there is no functioning Ticket Machine at the Parking Place, where a valid pay and display ticket can be obtained and displayed, payment must be made by any other means prescribed by the Council as advertised at that Parking Place.

f. **Restriction on Removal of Notices and Tickets**

- i. Where a Parking Ticket obtained from a Ticket Machine has been displayed on a Motor Vehicle in accordance with the provision of Clause 8.1.b of this Order no person, not being the Driver of the Motor Vehicle, shall remove the Parking Ticket from the Motor Vehicle until the Motor Vehicle has left the Parking Place;
- ii. Where a penalty charge notice has been attached to a Motor Vehicle no person, not being the Driver of the Motor Vehicle or a person authorised by the Council, shall remove the notice from the Motor Vehicle unless authorised to do so by the Driver.

g. **Particulars given by Ticket Machines and Tickets as Evidence**

The particulars as to the time at which a Parking Ticket were obtained from the apparatus, device or via the Telephone or Electronic Payment System provided specified on the Parking Ticket issued by the apparatus, device or via the Telephone or Electronic Payment System and displayed or recorded on a Handheld Device in accordance with the provisions of Clause 8.1.b shall be evidence of the particulars so specified.

h. **Transfer of Tickets**

No person shall use any Parking Ticket issued in respect of a Motor Vehicle left in a Parking Place in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) of this Article in relation to any other Motor Vehicle,

8.2

Season Tickets

- a. Where scale charges are defined in Column 6 of Schedule 2 to this Order in relation to a Parking Place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2, Season Tickets or Virtual Season Tickets may be issued upon payment of the appropriate scale charge, at the discretion of the Council, for use in the specified Parking Place in respect of a Motor Vehicle having more than two wheels, between the hours specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order.
- b. Nothing in Clauses 7 or 8.1 f ii shall apply to a vehicle which is parked in accordance with the provisions of Clause 8.1b by virtue of displaying a Season Ticket or having been granted a Virtual Season Ticket accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device issued in accordance with Clause 8.2.
- c. The Council reserve the absolute discretion to limit the number of Season Tickets or Virtual Season Tickets which may be issued for use in a Parking Place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2, for the purpose of ensuring that adequate Parking Spaces are available for use by vehicles in respect of which a Season Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket has not been issued, or for the purpose of preventing the issue of a Season Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket in respect of a vehicle which is not being used in connection with the operation of a business or employment located within an area defined by the Council, or for any other purpose which the Council determines necessary to fulfil its parking policies.
- d. Refunds shall not be provided against redemption of Season Tickets or Virtual Season Tickets which relate to the scale of charges defined in Schedule 1 to this Order in relation to a Parking Place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order.
- e. The scale of charges for Season Tickets and Virtual Season Tickets defined in Schedule 1 to this Order relating to Electric Vehicles shall only apply to zero emission Electric Vehicles.
- f. Season Tickets and Virtual Season Tickets valid on nominated days of the week shall be issued on the basis of one Season Ticket or Virtual Season Ticket per vehicle. No further Season Tickets or Virtual Season Tickets shall be purchased for the same vehicle during the same period for the same area defined in Schedule 1 to this Order.

- g. Season Tickets and Virtual Season Tickets relating to Scale 3 and Scale 6 charges of Schedule 1 of this order shall be valid for Sandwell Valley car parks specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order on nominated days. Season tickets and Virtual Season Tickets relating to Scale 3 and Scale 6 charges shall not be valid for Sandwell Valley car parks on Saturday or Sunday.
- h. Season Tickets and Virtual Season Tickets relating to **Scale 3** charges of Schedule 1 of this Order shall be valid on nominated days and Saturday for Parking Places specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 of this Order where Scale 6 charges apply.

8.3 **Residents Parking Permits**

- a. For households authorised specifically by the Council, in accordance with rules and procedures laid down by the Council, as amended from time to time, the following charges shall be payable for a Residents Parking Permit or Virtual Residents' Parking Permit for use in specifically designated Parking Spaces in accordance with Clause 4.3 in respect of a Motor Vehicle having more than two wheels, on such days and during such hours as are specified in relation to that Parking Place in Column 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order:-

for specific Parking Places detailed in **Column 1 of Schedule 2** to this Order - Scale Charges specified in **Column 7 of Schedule 2** as detailed in **Schedule 1** to this Order

- b. Nothing in Clauses 7 or 8.1f ii shall apply to a vehicle which is parked in accordance with the provisions of Clause 8.1b by virtue of displaying a valid Residents' Parking Permit or having been granted a Virtual Residents' Parking Permit accessible on an electronic database approved by the Council using a Handheld Device issued in accordance with Clause 8.3.
- c. Where specific bays have been allocated for Resident Parking Permit holders outside of normal charging or time restricted hours, Permits and Virtual Permits will only be valid in those allocated bays during the hours indicated on the bay signs.

- 9. Disabled Person's Badge holders will be allowed to park free of charge in all the Parking Places, where appropriate as specified in Schedule 2 to this Order, provided the Disabled Badge is displayed as specified in Clause 4.3. Nothing in this Clause shall apply to a vehicle which is permitted to wait in such part of Parking Place as is marked by signs, lines, studs or other indications so as to indicate its provision as a Parking Space for a Motorcycle as specified in Clause 4.9 or a Residents Parking Permit holder as specified in Clause 4.10.
- 10. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle using a Parking Place shall stop the engine as soon as the Motor Vehicle is in position in the Parking Place and shall not start the engine except when about to change the position of the Motor Vehicle in or to depart from the Parking Place.
- 11. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle using a Parking Place shall not sound any horn or other similar instrument except when about to change the position of the Motor Vehicle in or to depart from the Parking Place.
- 12. The Driver of a Motor Vehicle while it is waiting in a Parking Place shall not permit the carrying out of any work of maintenance or repair except such as may be necessary to enable the Motor Vehicle to be moved from the Parking Place or such minor maintenance work or running repairs as may be necessary for the efficient driving of the Motor Vehicle.

13. **Selling or Offering for Hire, Skills or Services**

- 13.1 Subject as hereinafter provided no person shall use a Motor Vehicle while it is in a Parking Place, in connection with the sale of any article to persons in or near the Parking Place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of his skill(s) or services.

- 13.2 The Driver of a Motor Vehicle shall not offer the said Motor Vehicle for sale while it is waiting in a Parking Place.

- 14. The Driver of a caravan or Motor Vehicle whilst it is waiting in a Parking Place shall not use the caravan or Motor Vehicle for camping purposes or overnight sleeping.

15. The Council or a person authorised by the Council may suspend the use of a Parking Space or Parking Place as defined in clause 2 of this Order whenever such suspension is considered necessary:-
- a. for the purpose of facilitating the movement of traffic or promoting its safety.
 - b. for works to be carried out to the Parking Place or Parking Space.
 - c. on any occasion on which it is likely by reason of a public event that the Parking Place or Parking Space should be suspended in order to promote its safety.
16. When a Motor Vehicle is left in a Parking Place in contravention of any of the provisions contained in Clause 4, Clause 5, Clause 6, Clause 8.1.c, Clause 13.2 or Clause 15 of this Order a person authorised in that behalf by the Council may remove the Motor Vehicle or arrange for it to be removed from that Parking Place.
17. Any person removing a Motor Vehicle in accordance with Clause 16 shall:-
- a. do so by towing or driving the Motor Vehicle or in such other manner as may be considered necessary, or;
 - b. take such measures in relation to the Motor Vehicle as are considered necessary to enable it to be removed or its position to be altered as appropriate.
18. When a person authorised by the Council removes or makes arrangements for the removal of a Motor Vehicle from a Parking Place by virtue of Clause 16 of this Order he shall make such arrangements as may be reasonably necessary for the safe custody of the Motor Vehicle.

PART III

SEIZE AND STORE MOTOR VEHICLES ABANDONED ON PARKING PLACES

19. The Council may as respects a Motor Vehicle which has been or could at any time be, removed from a Parking Place in pursuance of Clause 16 of this Order if it appears to them to have been abandoned, sell or otherwise dispose of the Motor Vehicle.

Provided that the power of disposal conferred by this Article shall not be exercisable in the case of a Motor Vehicle unless there have been taken by the Council such of the following steps as are applicable to the Motor Vehicle and there has elapsed a period of six weeks beginning with the taking of the first of these steps.

20. (1) Subject to the provisions of Clause 26 of this Order, where a Motor Vehicle carries a registration mark issued under the Vehicles Excise and Registration Act 1994 the Council shall apply in writing to the Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority inquiring who it appears may be the Owner or Registered Keeper of the Motor Vehicle and the address of that person;
- (2) The first step for the purposes of the last and the next succeeding Clause shall be taken to be the sending of the notice mentioned in Clause 21.
21. The Council shall, where it is by virtue of the last preceding Clause is aware of the name and address of a person who it appears may be the Owner or Registered Keeper of the Motor Vehicle, send a notice to that person at that address stating that it is the intention of the Council to sell or otherwise dispose of the Motor Vehicle (which shall be sufficiently described in the notice) on or after a specified date (which shall not be less than two weeks from the date of the notice and in any event not earlier than six weeks from the date of the first step taken by the Council under this Part of this Order) unless it is in the meantime removed by or on behalf of that person from such place as may be specified by the Council in the said notice or from such other place as may be subsequently notified in writing by the Council to that person.
22. If any person to whom a notice is sent in accordance with the last preceding Clause informs the Council of the name and address of some other person who he alleges may be the Owner of the Motor Vehicle a notice stating the particulars mentioned in the last preceding Clause shall be sent to that other person and to any further person who the Council may in consequence of the sending of the notice to the said other person be led to believe may be the Owner of the Motor Vehicle.

23. Subject to the provision of Clause 26 of this Order, where a Motor Vehicle does not carry a registration mark issued under the Vehicles Excise and Registration Act 1994 the first step to be taken by a Council shall be to apply in writing to the Chief Officer of the police force in whose area is the Parking Place from which the Motor Vehicle has been or could at any time be, removed inquiring who that officer considers is the Owner of the Motor Vehicle and the address of that person.
24. If, after steps have been taken under the foregoing provisions of this part of this Order a Motor Vehicle is not claimed, the Council shall make such further (if any) as they consider reasonable as to who may be the Owner of the Motor Vehicle and the address of that person.
25. Where by virtue of Clauses 22 or 23 of this Order the Council is informed of the name and address of a person who it is considered may be the Owner of the Motor Vehicle Clauses 21 and 22 of this Order as respects the sending of notices shall apply in relation to that person at that address as they apply in relation to the person mentioned in the said Clause 21.
26. Nothing in the foregoing provisions in this part of this Order shall require the Council to take any such step as is therein mentioned for the purpose of inquiring who is the Owner of a Motor Vehicle to which Clause 18 of this Order applies if they have found a person who satisfies them that he is in fact the Owner of that Motor Vehicle and they have sent him at his address a notice containing the particulars specified in Clause 20 of this Order, the sending of the notice being treated as the first step for the purposes of that Clause and the said Clause 18.
27. Upon the sale of a Motor Vehicle by the Council it shall apply the proceeds of sale in satisfaction of any costs incurred by it in connection with the disposal thereof and towards any charge incurred to which the Council is entitled as regards the Motor Vehicle under Section 102 of the Act 1984.
28. In the event of any such costs incurred by the Council in connection with the disposal of the Motor Vehicle not being satisfied by virtue of the last preceding Clause the Council may recoup those costs so far as not satisfied from the person who was the last Owner of the Motor Vehicle before it was removed from the Parking Place either in pursuance of Clause 16 of this Order or after it had been disposed of by virtue of the power of disposal conferred by this Order if that person was sent by the Council a notice under the foregoing provisions of this part of this Order stating the particulars mentioned in Clause 20 of this Order.
29. Any sums received by the Council on sale of the Motor Vehicle after deducting any sum applied therein by virtue of Clause 26 of this Order shall be payable within a period of one year from the date of the sale of the Motor Vehicle to any person to whom but for such sale the Motor Vehicle would have belonged and in so far as any such sums are not claimed within the said period they shall be paid into the general rate fund of the Council.
30. Where under the foregoing provisions of this part of this Order a notice is required to be or may be sent to a person the notice shall be sent by registered post or by recorded delivery service.

31. REVOCATION

This Order revokes no existing Orders

SCHEDULE 1

Scale	Car Park / Type	Charges				
	West Bromwich (Zone A)	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours
1	Short Stay Car Parks - Pay and Display	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3.20	£4.20
2	Long Stay Car Parks - Pay and Display	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3.20	£4.20
		All day £8.50				
3	Season Tickets (A) West Bromwich - Based on Number of Nominated Days per Week	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
	1 Month Season Tickets	£7.00	£17.00	£33.00	£49.00	£65.00
	12 Month Season Tickets	£70.00	£170.00	£330.00	£490.00	£650.00
	1 Month Season Ticket - Electric Vehicle	£3.50	£8.50	£16.50	£24.50	£32.50
	12 Month Season Ticket - Electric Vehicle	£35.00	£85.00	£165.00	£245.00	£325.00
	Outside West Bromwich (Zone B)	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours
4	Short Stay Car Parks - Pay and Display	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1.60	£2.10
5	Long Stay Car Parks - Pay and Display	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1.60	£2.10
		All day £4.50				
6	Season Tickets (B) Outside West Bromwich - Based on Number of Nominated Days per Week	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
	1 Month Season Tickets 2024	£4.50	£11.50	£22.50	£33.00	£45.00
	12 Month Season Tickets 2024	£45.00	£115.00	£225.00	£330.00	£450.00
	1 Month Season Ticket - Electric Vehicle 2024	£2.25	£5.75	£11.25	£16.50	£22.50
	12 Month Season Ticket - Electric Vehicle 2024	£22.50	£57.50	£112.50	£165.00	£225.00

Scale	Car Park / Type	Charges				
7	Residents Parking Permit	First permit - £46.34 per year				
		Second permit - £54.05 per year				
		Third permit - £128 per year				
		Commercial Vehicle - £154.56 per year				
	Pay and Display Car Parks - Enforcement Through Partnership	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	
8	West Bromwich Leisure Centre, Barton Street, West Bromwich	80p	£1.60	£2.40	N/A	
9	Market Traders Parking Permit	One Day - £1.78		3 Month - £24.21		
10	Special Business/Visitor Permit	£100 per year				
11	Sandwell Valley	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	
	Long Stay Car Parks Sandwell Valley - Pay and Display	40p	80p	£1.20p	£1.60p	
	All day £2.00					
12	Sandwell Valley Season Tickets	12 month season ticket - £40				

Scale 7 and Scale 9 prices subject to annual change. Check latest Cabinet decision and Council

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
Name and Location of Parking Place	Hours of Operation of Parking Place	Max. Period for which vehicles may wait	No return within	Scale of Charges for Payment	Scale of Charges for Season Tickets and Virtual Season Tickets	Scale of Charges for Residents Parking Permits and Virtual Residents Parking Permits	Class of Vehicle (height of vehicle in metres)
Albert Street, Wednesbury	8am - 6pm Monday to Saturday (inclusive)	23 hours	1 Hour	Scale 5	Scale 6	N/A	2.3
Market Place, Tipton	8am - 6pm Monday to Saturday (inclusive)	4 Hours	1 Hour	Scale 5	Scale 6	N/A	2.3
Ridding Lane, Wednesbury	8am - 6pm Monday to Saturday (inclusive)	23 hours	1 Hour	Scale 5	Scale 6	N/A	2.3

THE COMMON SEAL of)
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL)
 was hereunto affixed)
 25th day of August 2026)
 in the presence of:-)

LEGAL MANAGER
 (Authorised Signatory)

ML Jones

Monitoring Officer,
 Service Director - Governance

02868



Column 9
Resident Permit Only Bays
N/A
N/A
N/A

Monitoring Officer
 Director - Governance

Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report Title	Creating Vibrant Centres – Free Parking and Market Stall Hire Pilot – Wednesbury & Great Bridge
Date of Meeting	
Report Author	Alan Lunt – Executive Director, Place
Lead Officer	Alan Lunt – Executive Director, Place
Decision Maker (s)	Councillor Ray Nock – Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economic Growth
Wards Affected	Great Bridge, Wednesbury
Identify exempt information and exemption category	N/A
Is the report urgent?	No
Reasons for urgency (only where applicable)	N/A
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a time-limited pilot initiative, between September 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027, at Great Bridge and Wednesbury town centres designed to test whether temporary changes to parking charges and market stall fees can contribute to increased footfall, market activity and wider town centre vitality. The pilot will also generate evidence to inform the development of the Council's wider Town Centre Strategy and future policy decisions relating to regeneration, parking and markets.

2. Recommendations

The Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement and the Deputy Council Leader, is requested to approve: -

- 2.1 The implementation of a time-limited pilot at Great Bridge and Wednesbury town centres between September 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027.
- 2.2 The introduction of up to two hours free parking at the car parks identified within the report for the duration of the pilot.
- 2.3 The temporary suspension of market stall pitch charges at Great Bridge and Wednesbury markets for the duration of the pilot.
- 2.4 The use of identified budget provision to meet the forecast reduction in income arising from the pilot.
- 2.5 The monitoring and evaluation framework set out within the report, with the outcomes reported to Members at the conclusion of the pilot period.

3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 Town centres continue to experience significant challenges arising from changing retail patterns, online shopping and wider economic pressures. The Council is committed to supporting vibrant and sustainable town centres and wishes to understand whether targeted interventions can increase activity within key centres and support local traders. The proposed pilot will provide a structured opportunity to test the impact of reduced user costs and inform future evidence-based policy development.
- 3.2 The market service specifically, demonstrates varied performance. Markets in West Bromwich and Blackheath perform well financially and are popular. Other markets, notably Wednesbury and Great Bridge, run at a deficit. However, markets are held in high regard amongst the communities affected and it is acknowledged that in the right circumstances, markets can provide a 'niche' retail offer that is not met from more traditional retail units if the overall local offer is sufficient to generate demand.
- 3.3 The council is concerned also that charges for parking on those council owned car parks serving the markets, create an additional barrier to residents / visitors frequenting the markets. Therefore, a pilot period that offers up to two hours free parking in the areas affected, will demonstrate whether the charging regime impacts negatively on the popularity of the markets concerned and footfall in the areas under consideration.

MARKETS

- 3.4 In terms of markets, during the pilot period, 'pitches' for both Great Bridge and Wednesbury will be offered to stall holders free of charge. It is hoped that this will result in increased numbers of stalls and a more diverse offer being available in the markets concerned, resulting in increased footfall and better profitability for traders in the markets and the adjacent traditional shopping units too.

IMPACT ON MARKET INCOME

- 3.5 Current annual income for the markets concerned is £12,000 for Wednesbury and £1000 for Great Bridge. Therefore, the potential loss of income will be circa £13,000.

CAR PARKING

3.6 The council is considering revising its car parking charging policies during the pilot period for the following car parks.

- Great Bridge Market Place, Tipton (24 spaces) – Zone B
- Ridding Lane, Wednesbury (48 spaces) – Zone B
- Albert Street, Wednesbury (36 spaces) – Zone B

3.7 Two hours free parking will be provided at the above locations during the pilot period. This will replace the current charging policy as set out below.

Time	Cost
Up to 30 mins	£0.30
Up to 1 hour	£0.60
Up to 2 hours	£1.10

3.8 It is intended to retain current charges for up to 3 hours £1.60 Zone B) and longer.

IMPACT ON PARKING INCOME

3.9 Presently, the council's 'Pay and Display' machines are outdated and not considered fit for purpose. A contractual agreement is being entered into with 'RingGo', who will, for a reasonable annual fee (time limited to 3 years), provide new, modern Pay and Display machines which will not only make paying for parking more convenient for customers, but will provide data on car park usage and length of stay, information currently not available to the council, which in future can be used to inform charging policy. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the impact that the pilot will have on parking income. What is known is that total annual income for the car parks affected (based on figures for 2024/25) are as follows.

	PCN's issued	Pay by phone	Pay & display	Total
Great Bridge Market Pl.	£360	£637	£1298	£2,295
Ridding Lane	£1470	£6046	£6919	£14,435
Albert Street	£640	£1400	£4356	£6,396
TOTAL (£)	£2470	£8083	£12573	£23,126

- 3.10 Assuming that circa 66% of parking in these locations is for 2 hours or less, the impact on income for the pilot period could be in the region of circa £13,700. Total borough-wide annual car park income is currently in the region of £850k per annum.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.11 Town centres and High Streets have seen a radical 'shift' over the past 20 years. Firstly, with the increase of 'out of town' shopping and large purpose-built shopping centres providing free parking and a range of offers which have helped drive footfall and the rise of 'online retail' which has further impacted on key centres.
- 3.12 Successive governments have sought to reverse the trend of the declining high street, notably by enabling 'permitted development' rights to convert former retail units into residential units. In 2011, the Portas Review into rejuvenating high streets was published and made a range of recommendations, some of which were implemented. Regardless, continued decline has occurred. Therefore, the success of this pilot cannot be guaranteed. Similar initiatives have been attempted in the borough. Notably, a free-market stall hire undertaken in Wednesbury was undertaken for a 3-month period during 2024 which failed to improve trade. The service has also tried free rent for speciality markets (like continental food markets) in Wednesbury and West Bromwich and whilst we had some one-off events the traders did not make enough income to warrant coming back, even when the rent was free. They would prefer to pay a reasonable stall rent and make reasonable income than pay no stall rent and make poor income.
- 3.13 The provision of a pilot operating in two areas may give rise to concerns from residents / users of other centres. However, the focus on Great Bridge and Wednesbury is justified based on their current loss-making status and the fact that this is a time limited pilot, helping to inform future policies that will seek to make all of Sandwell's Town Centres and High Streets more vibrant.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE PILOT

- 3.14 Expected outcomes that will be monitored throughout the pilot are.
- Increased car park usage
 - Increased number of market stalls on relevant market days.
- 3.15 The impact of the changes would be monitored throughout the pilot period, generating evidence as to how the changes have affected the vibrancy of the areas concerned.
- 3.16 It is intended that the results be used to develop longer term policies aimed at improving the vibrancy of all key centres across the borough in the longer term.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The following alternative options have been considered –

- 4.1.1 **Option 1 – Retain existing parking charges and market stall fees.** Whilst this would avoid any reduction in income, it would not allow the Council to test whether pricing interventions can contribute to increased activity within the affected town centres or provide evidence to inform the emerging Town Centre Strategy. This option was dismissed.
- 4.1.2 **Implement borough-wide changes.** This option does not allow evidence to be collated to establish a viable business case either for or against reducing or removing these charges. A targeted pilot is considered a proportionate approach that enables the Council to evaluate effectiveness, manage financial exposure and assess outcomes before considering any wider policy changes.

Consultation

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement and the Deputy Council Leader have been consulted and provided instruction on requirements for the pilot.
- 5.2 As a time limited pilot, no further statutory consultation is required.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The total impact on income is expected to be in the region of £26,700. This can be met from the unused portion of Member Allowances, due to an underspend resulting from a reduction in the number of Cabinet Members by one since May 2026.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

- 7.1 The council is at liberty to run a pilot of this nature without further legal or governance issues arising.

8. Risks

- 8.1 The pilot may fail to generate any additional footfall / occupation in the key centres.
- 8.2 The pilot may result in challenges from other areas wishing also to participate in a pilot and may claim the pilot is inequitable.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 9.1 The decision proposed has paid due regard to the Council's public sector equality duties. However, the only implication of the pilot is financial and therefore, no negative impacts on equality and diversity are created.

10. Other Relevant Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 None

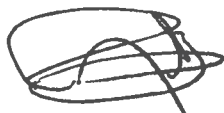
12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

12.1 This report will support the delivery of the following Strategic Themes: -

- Living in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell

12.2 It is intended that greater vibrancy will be generated in town centres because of the pilot as well as increased trade / profitability for local traders.

Signed



Print

Cllr Ray Vock.

Position

Leader of the Council

Date

28.07.2026.

Signed



Print

Cllr Bob Jones

Position -

Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement

Date

28.07.2026.

Signed



Print

Cllr Gary Duff

Position

Deputy Leader of the Council

Date

28.07.2026.

Relevance Check

Budget Reduction/Service Area: Place

Service Lead Alan Lunt

Date: July 7, 2026

In what ways does this Budget reduction have an impact on an outward facing service? How will the service feel different to your customers or potential customers?

It is hoped that the proposal will have a positive impact on customers by increasing footfall and vibrancy

If not, how does it impact on staff e.g. redundancies, pay grades, working conditions? Why are you confident that these staff changes will not affect the service that you provide?

N/A

Is a Customer Impact Assessment needed? No