



Bridgwater Town Council

REPORT

Report to:	Finance and Policy Committee
Agenda Item:	
Date of Meeting:	Friday 29 April 2024
Date of this Report:	Tuesday 23 April 2024
Author:	Sally Jones – Director of Finance
Lead Officer:	Sally Jones – Director of Finance

Report Title

Recommendations

To consider whether to subsidise car parking costs for staff.

1. Background

The recent increase in staff employed at the Town Council means that there is more demand on parking within the Town and the Town Council doesn't have any parking on site. Some of the roles require staff to be able to go to various sites during the day. Staff are currently using a mixture of pay and display parking which costs at least £6.80 a day, or they are parking on residential roads.

Throughout the recruitment process the issue of staff parking was consistently raised by candidates.

We have identified 28 number of employees who would take up permit parking.

2. Options for parking

Conversations have taken place with Somerset Council and the new owners of Angel Place who can offer annual parking permits which would allow staff to park in town at a reduced price.

Somerset Council are currently only offering their permit to cover Bridgwater, but they are looking at whether this can be changed to cover a wider area or if they can reduce the price.

3. Legal Considerations

HMRC guidance states: (EIM21685 - Particular benefits: car parking near work - Section 237 ITEPA 2003)

- There is no tax charge on a director or employee within the benefits code on the provision of a car or motorcycle parking space at or near his place of work. Facilities for parking bicycles are also exempt.
- The words 'at or near' are not defined in the act. A rigid approach is not required. Apply the exemption in any case where parking facilities can be said to be within a reasonable distance from the place of work having regard to the nature of the locality. Do not deny the exemption simply because there is a car park nearer to the place of work.

4. Financial and Risk Considerations

Somerset Council are offering a reduced Bridgwater specific parking permit at £47.50 per month which is £570 per annum.

Angel Place are offering a reduced permit at £42 per month which is £504 per annum.

In order to keep and attract staff offering a discounted parking solution close to the place of work is an advantage. The risk of not offering this benefit it is likely that staff will park in residential streets to avoid being charged and this is not ideal solution.

	Somerset Council	Angel Place	Approx no of employees	Cost to Council Somerset Council	Cost to Council Angel Place
100%	£ 570	£ 504	28	£ 15,960	£ 14,112
75%	£ 428	£ 378	28	£ 11,970	£ 10,584
50%	£ 285	£ 252	28	£ 7,980	£ 7,056
25%	£ 143	£ 126	28	£ 3,990	£ 3,528

If the Council was to agree to subsidise a percentage of the car parking costs this would be funded from Cost Centre 105 and Nominal Code 4248 'Devo Contingency'

5. Equalities Considerations

There are no legal considerations.

Report Sign-off

Title	Name	Date
Town Clerk/CEO	David Mears	24/04/2024

End of report.