**01/11/23**

**Removal of temporary parking spaces in ‘Orchard’ site of County hospital**

1. **Introduction**

45 additional on-site spaces were created in 2019 under a temporary planning application to help enable the Replacement Wards project. There is no recurrent permission to use the spaces and the development control plan for the site identifies the location as the preferred option for the Education Centre. The Programme Board has approved the use of the site for the Energy Centre to decarbonise the hospital and the planning applications for both Education Centre and Energy Centre are now proceeding.

The timetable for the Energy Centre works is now confirmed as requiring the site from January 2024. In advance of this there needs to be a reduction of circa 10 spaces to allow for archaeological investigations from late November.

1. **Considerations**

2.1 The spaces in the Orchard are currently accessed by the highest priority group of staff who pay the highest rate and demonstrate the highest need to access ‘barrier parking’ in office hours.

2.2 Staff have paid for onsite parking on the understanding that there will be a number of spaces until April 2024 when the allocation process is updated – prices and prioritisation reviewed.

2.3 It has recently come to light that a number of staff members appear to have ignored penalty charge notices and this is now being enforced more rigorously to escalate unpaid penalties.

2.4 Patient parking is generally busy and very well utilised during peak times and reallocation of patient spaces to staff comes at a considerable premium.

2.5 The Trust is currently behind plan to break even this financial year.

2.6 Spaces in Monkmoor and Longfield (classed as onsite) are currently underutilised with approx. 25 spaces available on an average day.

2.7 Offsite permits allowing use of Garrick and Merton Meadow are also underutilised at any given time by around 25 spaces.

2.8 As the spaces are going to be lost in perpetuity the preferred option needs to be sustainable noting the specific challenge doing this ¾ through a year.

2.9 Communications to all and also targeting at staff affected should take place ASAP to allow people time to plan and make arrangements.

1. **Options** 
   1. **Purchase more spaces offsite within existing arrangement –** it is suggested that this is reviewed and audited and included, if required, in next year’s process.
   2. **Refund staff** – it may be necessary and fair to offer staff proportional refund if they want to change their arrangements.
   3. **Pay difference for alternative arrangements –** it would be difficult to quantify and administer a support scheme for 3 months.
   4. **Purchase spaces on another site –** all options on this have been exhausted with limited benefit although at a premium we could purchase season tickets from council and pass cost onto permit holders.
   5. **Utilise patient parking –** cost around £43,000 for rest of year and impact on patients.
   6. **Reallocate spaces for higher priority staff –** widen designated spaces for priority staff by extending longfield house/Trust HQ parking zone.
2. **Recommendation**

Create a barrier free but well signed and enforced priority zone from junction adjacent to former Finance Block.

Recommend staff with onsite permits but without barrier access/priority status consider utilising Monkmoor Court.

Remind staff of the existing options to use offsite spaces if they cannot find a free space on site. Remind staff that all shift workers can utilise onsite spaces between 7pm-7am.