

# Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

9 January 2024

## Review of Parking Charges

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Cabinet recommends to Council to approve the proposal as set out in 5.1 of this report on the increases to the car parking charges from 1 April 2024.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the review of Fees and Charges Policy all charges should increase in line with the annual inflation rate as of September in each year. Any variation to the policy is recommended to Cabinet and Council if required. Car park users expect charges to be reasonable and proportionate. The Council generates income from car parking to cover the costs and to allow for future investment. Car parks occupy valuable sites and parking charges need to reflect this. If they are not serving their purpose effectively, or their usage could be consolidated, there may be another economically beneficial use to which a site could be put.
- 3.2 West Sussex County Council set the charges for on-street parking and any amendments to off-street charges would be closely monitored for deflection onto the highway.
- 3.3 At its meeting in November, Cabinet considered some proposals for parking charges to be subject to public consultation, with agreement that following consultation a report would go back to Cabinet and recommendations to then be made to Council.
- 3.5 The consultation period took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December, with notices displayed in all of the affected car parks, notices included within the local newspaper and key stakeholders contacted. A total of five responses were received and a summary of the consultation results is set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

### 4. Outcomes to be Achieved.

- 4.1. To ensure Chichester District parking charges remain competitive with neighbouring centres leaving our business centres in a strong position and do not cause unacceptable parking deflection into residential areas.
- 4.2. The proposed charges assist with delivering the objectives of both assisting with capacity issues in the higher demand car parks and helping to cover administration and maintenance costs of each car park.
- 4.3. To increase income in line with the Council's financial strategy and to adhere to the Council's approved Fees and Charges Policy.

## **5. Proposal**

- 5.1. It is proposed that the following amendments to parking charges are undertaken from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, further details are outlined in Appendix 2:
  - Increase existing Pay and Display tariffs by the September Office of National Statistics (ONS) rate of inflation in the council's five-year financial model (6.7%) with some variations due to roundings and demand.
  - Increase season tickets by the September ONS rate of inflation.
  - Amend the current flat rate of Sunday tariffs in the city centre long stay car park to reflect those for Monday to Saturday.
  - Introduce car park charges to the rural car parks on Sundays.
  - Extend the charging period in the city's short stay car parks from 6pm to 8pm. (With Cattle Market, Basin Road and the Avenue de Chartres car parks remaining at the charging end time of 6pm).
- 5.2. The charges proposed are considered modest and competitive when compared with other neighbouring authorities. Details of charges in other similar centres were considered by Cabinet in November.

## **6. Alternatives Considered**

- 6.1. A series of options were considered by the Chichester District Parking Forum. These included CDC covering the cost of MiPermit transaction fees; freezing the charges in the Avenue de Chartres and Grange Road car parks; freezing charges in rural car parks; removing the free period of parking in rural car parks and introducing charges to those car parks in rural areas which are currently free of charge.
- 6.2. Do nothing –this would not assist with covering the costs of the provision of the car parks service or assist with car park usage or turnover.

## **7. Resource and Legal Implications**

- 7.1. To implement changes to charges and car parks there will be minor costs associated with the provision of new signs and necessary adjustments to

the machine tariffs as well as changes to back office software; these costs are contained within the service's revenue budget.

- 7.2. The Parking Order will require amendment once the charges and amendments are agreed and will be advertised as amended.
- 7.3. Additional income will be generated as a result of the amendments to the parking charges. Whilst it is challenging to accurately estimate the total amount of income received as a result (given that parking behaviour may be affected by the changes), it is estimated that there could be an additional £55,000 per annum as a result of the change in Sunday tariff, an additional £30,000 per annum as a result of the inclusion of Sundays in rural areas and an estimated increase in income of approximately £130,000 as a result of the extension of the charging period in short stay city car parks by two hours.

## 8. Consultation

- 8.1. The proposed changes to parking charges were discussed by the Parking Forum in September 2023. Paragraph 6.1 above sets out the alternative proposals considered. A period of consultation of the charges has been undertaken with the public and stakeholders. The results of the consultation are included at Appendix 2.
- 8.2. The results from the consultation have been considered by Officers. Whilst the comments have been noted it is felt that the proposals are modest and reflect the council's fees and charges policy. Changes to parking charges will be monitored for impact on the car parks and the wider highway network. The first one or two hours of 'free' parking will currently remain in place within the rural car parks and there will be 'free' evening parking in the majority of the long stay car parks in the city. The efficient use of Civil Enforcement Officers' time will continue to be monitored to ensure that enforcement in car parks and on the highway is undertaken satisfactorily.
- 8.3. Should the proposals be agreed by Cabinet, notices will be displayed in all affected car parks to advise of the changes coming into effect, along with car parks signs being amended and the website being updated.

## 9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1. Any increase in charges could cause people to park within neighbouring residential areas and reduce the economic effectiveness of the localities they serve. The modest nature of the increases and other mitigation proposed is designed to minimise this risk.

## 10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>		X

<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity</b> Congestion due to drivers queuing to locate a parking space can have an impact on air quality. When parking charges are set at the correct level this can assist with encouraging alternative forms of transport or parking is less congested areas.	X	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>		X
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		X
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>		X
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		X
<b>Other</b>		

## 11. Appendices

11.1 Review of Parking Charges - Stakeholders

11.2 Response to Consultation

11.3 Proposed Chichester District Parking Charges 2024

## 12. Background Papers

None