

Options for Parking Charges 2020-22

1. Increase all existing charges (Pay and Display and Season Tickets) by the rate of inflation (3% increase).

Whilst achieving the council's fees and charging policy objective this option does not enable consideration of a charging structure on a locational basis where the local offer and demands on spaces are reflected. This also does not enable adequate performance management of the car parks.

It is estimated that this option would provide a net estimated increase of £320,000 over the two years based on current user behaviour.

2. Increase all charges by 10p per hour over 2 hours.

This option may not, however, enable adequate performance management of the car parks to reflect updated patterns of use.

It is estimated that this option would provide a net estimated increase of £150,000 over the two years based on current user behaviour.

3. Introduce measures to assist with idling vehicles approaching Little London and Baffins Lane car parks

Little London and Baffins Lane car parks in Chichester are both very well-used and at times there are queues which form to access these car parks. Whilst the tariffs for these two car parks are higher than those in the rest of the city, there is still the potential to increase these tariffs further. This could assist with reducing congestion and further assist with the council's aspirations relating to environmental impact of our policy decisions. It is proposed that the charging structure would be as follows:

Charging period	Current	Proposed
Up to 30 minutes	.80	£1.00
Up to 1 hour	£1.50	£1.70
Up to 2 hours	£3.00	£3.20
Up to 3 hours	£4.90	£5.20
Up to 4 hours	£7.70	£8.00
Up to 5 hours	£9.20	£9.50
Up to 6 hours	£10.90	£11.40
Up to 8 hours	£12.80	£13.50
More than 8 hours	£15.40	£16.00

4. Remove the free of charge parking period in all rural areas.

There are a number of car parks across the district which currently benefit from a free of charge initial period of parking. These car parks are listed below. Given that customers are required to take a ticket from the machine even during the free period of parking, the number of free of charge tickets are recorded. The numbers in

brackets below show the total amount of free of charge tickets issued in each car park and the percentage of all tickets issued.

Grange Road, Midhurst – First 2 hours free (96,481 free tickets – 83%)

North Street, Midhurst – First hour free (125,239 free tickets – 72%)

Post Office, Midhurst – First 2 hours free (10,488 free tickets – 56%)

Pound Street, Petworth – First hour free (54,754 free tickets – 48%)

East Street, Selsey – First hour free (23,314 free tickets – 68%)

Northern Crescent, East Wittering – First hour free (31,098 free tickets – 82%)

The total estimated net loss to the authority of the provision of this free of charge period of parking is £285,000 over the two years. Despite the fact that there is a free of charge period of parking in these car parks, customers are required to take a pay and display ticket even during the free period. Although there is adequate signage across the car parks to advise of this requirement there are a number of customers who do not display a pay and display ticket and subsequently are issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. These customers are then required to either pay the PCN or challenge, which results in costs to the authority of staff time and resource in dealing with challenges. There are also costs in the issuing of the pay and display tickets from the machines when parking in the free of charge period of parking.

Transport Research Laboratory research suggests that it is retailers who object to parking prices rather than shoppers themselves. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some of the visitors using the car parks where there is the free of charge period of parking rush back to their vehicles before the free period expires.

The Parking Forum has expressed concern that there might be subsequent impact to on-street parking as a result of removing the free period or that there might be an impact on the level of use of local businesses.

5. Introduce parking charges into the currently free of charge car parks

Currently there are three completely free of charge car parks owned by the district council (Crossfield – Fernhurst, Sylvia Beaufoy – Petworth and Florence Park – Chichester). Alongside this, Selsey Marine and Selsey East Beach car parks are currently free of charge between 1st November and 31st March each year. Evidence suggests that some of the spaces in some of these car parks are occupied for a prolonged period of time and the spaces are not always turning over as quickly as they should be. There is evidence of long-term parking taking place by local residents who have more than one vehicle per household and there are issues with visitors to some of these car parks being able to find a space. Action has been taken on some vehicle owners where it has been discovered that vehicles have been left in the car park with no MOT or tax, with the cost for this action falling to CDC. The only free of charge car park which restricts the duration of time for parking is Florence Road car park where parking is restricted to no more than 3 hours. This parking restriction has assisted with turning over spaces and preventing commuters within the city from parking free of charge all day.

It is proposed that a charge is introduced into these car parks to mirror the tariffs to be in place in the rural car parks to enable turnover of spaces and to cover the costs of the management and maintenance of these car parks. This also assists with meeting the policy regarding the user pays. A season ticket would be introduced within these car parks which would be available for local residents and businesses to purchase and would mirror the rural season ticket charges to be in place.

The Chichester District Parking Forum expressed concern that the introduction of fees into currently free of charge car parks could have a detrimental effect on the local businesses, although it was recognised that some car parks in the city at present are subsidising other car parks in the provision of free of charge parking.

6. Evening Charges

An extension to the charging hours by 2 hours (from 6.00pm to 8.00pm) in two car parks within the city was introduced on 1st April 2017, following discussion with the Parking Forum and Cabinet.

The council is committed to supporting sustainable communities and a vibrant city centre. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are changes to the use of high streets on a national level it is not considered that charging for the 2 hours after 6pm in two of the city's car parks is having a detrimental impact on the city. A report by the British Parking Association in conjunction with the Association of Town and City Management suggests that given that each locality is exposed to very different dynamics it is impossible to be certain if parking tariffs are a contributor to any decline in the traditional use of the high street. Net income from the extended period of charges in these two car parks helps to support a number of council services – this is not ring-fenced to purely the city. Monitoring of use of the car parks along with the use of the neighbouring roads has been undertaken and has not revealed any issues of concern or deflection. Since going live with the extension to charging hours in these two car parks there have been eleven complaints – which represents a very low percentage of the total usage numbers within the car parks. Businesses in the city have not provided any feedback relating to the extension of charging hours. Chichester Festival Theatre and the New Park Centre were given the opportunity to provide comments relating to the charging scheme, which was undertaken as part of the monitoring system, and there has not been any further information received in recent time..

There are a number of options available with regard to Evening charges within the district:

Option A - Introduce evening charges to short stay car parks only in the city – i.e. Little London, Baffins Lane, East Pallant / Cawley Priory, Orchard Street, South Pallant, Market Avenue / St John's Street, Market Road, Market Avenue. This could assist with the council's commitment to air quality by potentially encouraging vehicle owners not to drive through the city centre to park in the evening.

Option B - Introduce evening charges to all car parks within Chichester city, i.e. the short stay car parks as listed in Option A along with long stay car parks – Avenue de Chartres, Basin Road, Cattle Market, Westgate and Coach Park.

Option C – It has been suggested that removal of this extension of charging time into the evening in the two car parks for an initial fixed period term of three years should be considered as part of the review of Parking Charges. Should the evening charges in these two car parks be removed there will be a requirement for a significant level of income to be achieved through other parking charge increases.

Option D - Extend the charges to 8pm in all car parks owned by the authority – which would therefore include rural and coastal car parks. Staff resources would need to be considered to ensure that adequate cover can be provided.

Option E – retain existing evening charges as at present – i.e. purely in Northgate and New Park Road car parks.

The Car parking forum did not form an opinion on this, Officers have considered the impact and currently recommend option E with further review at the next forum.

8. Season Tickets

Season tickets are in place in a number of the council's car parks.

It is proposed to Increase season tickets in the rural car parks from £17.50 and £15.00 per month (Bosham and rural car parks respectively) to £20.00 and £17.50 per month.

It is proposed that the season tickets within the city remain as at currently charged given that there has been a reduction in demand resulting in no waiting lists in the season ticket car parks.