

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

5 November 2019

Parking Proposals and Off-street Parking Charges

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **Cabinet approves the proposal as set out in 6.1 of this report to increase car parking charges, which subject to consultation responses, be implemented from 1 April 2020 for a two year period.**
- 2.2. **That the Director of Growth and Place be authorised to give appropriate notice of any revised charges or changes as set out within this report pursuant to the Off-street Parking Places (Consolidation) Order 2018 and the Road Traffic Act 1984.**
- 2.3. **Cabinet approves the consolidation of all Parking Orders since 2012 into one document. This document will further clarify the provision for electronic payments and the exemption from daily charges for Blue Badge holders (with the exception of Pay on Foot parking) which subject to consultation be implemented from 1 April 2020.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Off-Street Parking Charges - In accordance with the Review of Fees and Charges Policy, Cabinet will recall that a number of increases in charges were approved and came into effect on 1 April 2018. These covered both rural and Chichester city car parks. A decision was made to have a two-year freeze on pay and display charges at this time.
- 3.2. Car park users expect charges to be reasonable and proportionate. The Council generates income from car parking to cover its costs and to allow for future investment. Car parks occupy valuable sites and 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.
- 3.3. Chichester District Car Park Strategy 2010-20 reflects the need to maximise the capacity of the existing stock. One method of doing so is to ensure that charges are set at a level which encourages turnover of use in

higher demand areas. West Sussex County Council set the charges for on-street parking. Any amendments to off-street charges would be closely monitored for deflection onto the highway.

3.4 There are a number of points to be borne in mind when considering parking charges:

- The charges proposed would be in place for two years from 1st April 2020. Parking charges provides essential income to support other key services.
- The policy should be that the user pays – i.e. each car park should be able to cover its own costs. There are a number of car parks at present which are not covering their own costs and therefore are being subsidised by income from other car parks in the district.
- Parking charges assist with reducing congestion and on-street parking, encouraging alternative forms of travel and to enable adequate turnover of spaces. The Council's policy is to increase fees and charges in line with inflation, or to reflect local circumstances where appropriate.
- National evidence suggests it is an area's broader retail, commercial, leisure and / or tourism offer that is the primary factor affecting its vibrancy, rather than solely parking charges.
- The Blue Badge scheme's expansion during 2019 to include 'hidden' disabilities such as dementia, anxiety and autism is anticipated to increase the number of Blue Badges which are in use. Blue Badge holders are able to currently park within CDC car parks free of charge.
- Spaces are not turning over adequately in the currently free of charge car parks and there is evidence of long-term parking with action being taken against owners of abandoned vehicles where possible.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that a 'free of charge' period of parking can encourage customers to rush back to their vehicle before the end of the free period of parking has finished rather than encouraging visitors to stay for longer.

3.5 CDC Off-Street Parking Orders are the legal basis for Off-Street parking provision, spaces, charges, enforcement etc. Whilst there has been an agreed Parking Order in place for some time, it is important that it is reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with the proposed use of the car parks and reflects all specific requirements relating to the car parks. The Parking Order is referred to when Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) are issued and is considered as part of the review of any appeals of PCN's by the independent Traffic Penalty Tribunal. There have been a number of variations since 2012 to the Parking Order. It is proposed that all variations are consolidated into a final Order to come into effect from April 2020, which will include further clarification relating to electronic payments and the exemption from the daily charges for Blue Badge holders, with the exception of Pay on Foot parking. (See background paper).

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. An updated Parking Order will continue to ensure that the legal basis for issuing Penalty Charge Notices is correct.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. It is proposed that all parking charges in car parks are increased by Council's proposed budgeted rate of inflation – i.e. 3% pa. In addition to this there would be a further small increase in Little London and Baffins Lane car parks to assist with turnover and reducing the congestion caused in this area. Season tickets in the city car parks will remain as currently priced, although there will be an increase in the price of rural car park season tickets from £17.50 and £15.00 per month (Bosham and rural car parks respectively) to £20.00 and £17.50 per month. The charges proposed would be in place for two years from 1st April 2020.
- 5.2. The charges proposed are considered modest and competitive when compared with other neighbouring authorities. Details of charges in other nearby competing centres are included in Appendix 2 and 3.
- 5.3. The authority is undertaking a number of initiatives across the district to support businesses. This includes a campaign leading up to Christmas to encourage use of the high streets; grants provided to businesses and heavily discounted car park season tickets for commuters. In addition to this the Council is also providing a free park and ride this Christmas in the City.
- 5.4. The proposed changes to the Parking Order include the introduction of a definition of Electronic payment, along with clarification within the Order relating to the application of electronic payment for parking and evidencing payment. In addition, the paragraph relating to Exemption from daily charge provides further detail concerning Blue Badge holders.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1. A series of options were considered by the Chichester District Parking Forum and these are fully detailed in Appendix 1. These include third party and officer recommendations which are based on parking policy and monitoring the use of the car parks.
- 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 five year financial strategy assumes that all income from fees and charges are increased in line with inflation. Failure to achieve that overall anticipated increase would have an impact on the financial strategy.
- 7.3. The Parking Order will require amendment once the charges and amendments are agreed and will be advertised for consultation.
- 7.4. The estimated income levels anticipated through the proposed increases is shown in Appendix 1.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The proposed changes to parking charges were discussed by the Parking Forum meeting of 9 September 2019 and their feedback is included in Appendix 1. The forums have assisted with the formulation of the final proposals in this report.
- 8.2. Amendment to the Parking Order will include a further period of public consultation.

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
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity 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	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X

Health and Wellbeing		X
Other		

11. Appendices

11.1 Proposed Chichester District Parking Charges 2020-2022

11.2 Chichester District Council current parking charges

11.3 Horsham District parking charges

11.4 Winchester parking charges

12. Background Papers

Chichester District Council Off-Street Parking Places Order 2012 (available in full on CDC's website)