

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

7 January 2020

Off-Street Parking Proposals Response to Consultation

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **Cabinet approves the increase in car parking charges as set out in sections 5.1 to 5.3 of this report.**
- 2.2. **Cabinet approves the consolidation to the Parking Order as set out in section 5.4 of this report.**
- 2.3. **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.**

3. Background

- 3.1. At its meeting on 5th November 2019, Cabinet resolved to consult on increasing parking charges by 3% in line with inflation and the additional amendment of a £2 per hour rate for both Little London and Baffins Lane car parks. Cabinet also resolved to consult on the rural season ticket prices increase from £17.50 and £15.00 per month (Bosham and rural /coastal car parks respectively) to £20.00 and £17.50 per month.
- 3.2. Cabinet also resolved, subject to consultation, to the consolidation of all variations to the Parking Order since 2012 into one document to provide further clarification of the provision for electric payments and the exemption from daily charges for Blue Badge holders (with the exception of Pay on Foot parking).
- 3.3. It was approved that any amendments would come into effect from 1st April 2020 subject to the consultation response.
- 3.2. Consultation has now taken place with the general public and stakeholder organisations (see Appendix 1). The closing date for receipt of responses was Monday 16 December 2019.

- 3.3 Twenty-two responses have been received. Full responses are included in Appendix 2. In summary there was a number of responses concerning the potential impact of raising parking charges on the retail offer in the high street, although some responders stated that there was merit in increasing the charges further to assist with mitigating the environmental impact of the use of vehicles. The number of comments received is higher than the level generally received for parking consultation but it is considered that this may be due to the concern over the fast changing nature of the high street.

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. Having considered the consultation responses it is proposed that all parking charges in car parks are increased by Council's proposed budgeted rate of inflation – i.e. 3%. However due to the current changing nature of the high street it is recommended that this is only implemented for one year (2020-21) and a full review is undertaken prior to any proposed increases for the following year (2021-22), followed by further consultation.
- 5.2. In addition to this there would be a further small increase in Little London and Baffins Lane car parks of a flat rate of £2 per hour to assist with turnover and reducing the congestion caused in this area which would assist in improving air quality in the area and making the area more attractive by removing queuing cars.
- 5.3. Season tickets in the city car parks will remain as currently priced, as it is recognised that these are largely purchased by employees working within the city, 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 / coastal car parks respectively) to £20.00 and £17.50 per month.
- 5.4. In addition the Parking Order will be consolidated into one document to include all the variations since 2012 and provide further clarification relating to the application of electronic payment for parking and evidencing payment, along with further clarification concerning Blue Badge holders.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 A series of options were considered by the Chichester District Parking Forum and the consultation on the proposed charges was undertaken and has been reviewed and considered as part of this report.
- 6.2 If any alternative option is recommended by Cabinet, members need to consider the financial impact and the potential need to find savings from other service areas.

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.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The proposed changes to parking charges were discussed by the Parking Forum meeting of 9 September 2019.
- 8.2. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) requested that the proposals relating to parking charges should be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26th November.
- 8.3. OSC resolved to uphold the Cabinet decision on 5 November 2019 and that the OSC produce a report to cabinet with its response to the proposed car parking charges increases consultation before the closing date of 16 December 2019. An extract of the draft minute is included in Appendix 3.
- 8.4. The report from the Chairman of OSC is included at Appendix 4. (The Chairman sent the report to all Members of OSC to determine whether they were in agreement with the report and some have responded, whilst others have not). As this report was written outside of a formal meeting it is therefore not the recommendation from OSC and members need to consider the formal draft minutes in Appendix 3. Comments in square brackets have been added to Appendix 4 to highlight any differences.
- 8.4. Consultation has been undertaken with the stakeholder organisations listed in Appendix 1. Notices were also placed in all car parks, on CDC's website and in the local press. They were also placed at three locations in the district to be viewed by the public. All responses received are shown within Appendix 2. Please note **all comments have not been redacted or amended in any way except to remove personal data or offensive material.**

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1. The impact of the amended charges will be closely monitored. 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 in 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 Appendix 1 - List of organisations contacted as part of consultation
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Responses from consultation
- 11.3 Appendix 3 – Extract of the draft minute from OSC 26th November 2019
- 11.3 Appendix 4 – Report from Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12. Background Papers

None