

Decision Report - Executive Director
Decision

Forward Plan Reference: FP/23/04/10

Decision Date - 27 June 2023

Key Decision - Yes



Review of Parking Fees & Charges 2023

Executive Member(s): Cllr Mike Rigby, Lead Member for Transport and Digital

Local Member(s) and Division: ALL

Lead Officer: Bev Norman, Strategic Manager - Traffic Management, Road Safety and Parking

Author: Steve Deakin - Parking Services Manager

Contact Details: steve.deakin@somerset.gov.uk 01823 355137

Summary / Background

1. This decision will review and vary the level of parking charges and fees across the Somerset Council area in line with the decision made at the Annual Budget Meeting on Wednesday 22nd February 2022.
2. The Annual Budget Meeting contained the following decisions detailed within Paper A - Appendix 2, Transformation, Income and Savings by Executive Directorate [Paper A - Appendix 2 TSIPG, item 5..pdf \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Item 80 - Increase in On-Street Car Parking Fees - Increase fees by 10% inflationary costs and look at charging all year round.
 - Item 81 - Increase in Off-Street Car Parking Fees - Increase Fees by 10% inflationary costs.

Recommendations

3. That the Executive Director for Climate and Place approves the following for implementation in the timescales indicated, following consultation where necessary;
 - Increase current prices as per the detailed appendices (1-2) in this report;

- In the event that any surplus is generated, this be ring fenced for projects in accordance with Civil Parking Enforcement legislation and guidelines;
- Approve delegated authority to officers to deal with any representations following the consultation period and approve increase in charges.

Reasons for recommendations

4. Parking Charges and Fees are to be increased to reflect recent inflationary pressures and to maintain the encouragement to alternative types of transport to town centres e.g., bus, cycle, car share.
5. The increased Charges and Fees will enable the Council to continue to meet its overall transport objectives without increasing an additional demand on the general expenditure fund.

Other options considered

6. The Council has not considered the do nothing approach or increases at a higher level. These options would have been unacceptable as increasing costs would not be covered or an unreasonably high burden would have been placed on the residents and visitors to Somerset.

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

7. The increases link to the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan agreed at the Annual Budget Meeting of 22nd February 2023. The increases enables the Council to meet its priorities by encouraging alternative methods of transport and reduce the reliance on the car.
8. The proposed increases address the issue of increasing operating costs and enables the Council to maintain its agreed transport and highways objectives.

Financial and Risk Implications

9. The increase in Parking Fees and Charges detailed in Appendix A to E have been identified by the Council as low risk see Paper A – Appendix 2 TSIPG. The increases have been set at levels of inflation and are considered to be balanced

between addressing inflationary pressures and encouragement of alternative methods of transport.

10. Once this decision which details the specific increases the changes will be implemented as soon as practical. The risks associated with this decision are considered low with no specific risk identified.

Likelihood	1	Impact	1	Risk Score	2
-------------------	----------	---------------	----------	-------------------	----------

11. The level of increased income has been estimated on a flat line basis, i.e. increase of 10% to a tariff with the same level of tickets purchased.

Less an anticipated reduction of usage following the increased charges to other modes of transport. It is anticipated this could be in the region of 20% reducing the full year income as detailed below.

2022/2023 income £9,076,875

Estimated additional income £726,000 (£907,687 less 20% usage) per annum.

Legal Implications

12. Parking Charges and Fees are introduced by way of a Traffic Regulation Order for On Street locations and a Parking Places Order for off-street (car parks) using the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which details the manner and type of restrictions a Local Authority may consider.
13. The actual restrictions are introduced in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996. As these proposals are merely changing the charge and/or fees the Local Authority is able to use a Notice of Variation which subject to the required procedures including advertising the changes and providing 21 days notice (minimum) before implementation.

HR Implications

14. None

Other Implications:

Equalities Implications

15. No access, equality and diversity, human rights issues have been identified.

No operational, eligibility and way of using are impacted by this decision as the only change relates to the cost of using the service which is largely discretionary. i.e. the user does have other alternatives.

The Equalities Impact Assessment is appended to this report and referenced in this section. If there are no implications then please state so under this heading.

Community Safety Implications

16. None

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

17. An increase in the cost of using parking facilities will for some users result in the use of alternative methods of transport, i.e. cycle, walking, car share or public transport all of which will contribute positively to the reduction of carbon and improvements to the climate.

Health and Safety Implications

18. None

Health and Wellbeing Implications

19. None

Social Value

20. None

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

21. The proposed decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

Opposition Spokesman comments:

22. The Opposition Spokesman for Transport & Digital raised a number of concerns and queries, to which responses were provided.

23. The Deputy Leader of Opposition Group and Lead Member for Resources and Performance raised a question about the individual increases. Clarification has been provided.

Background

24. Following Local Government Reorganisation, Somerset Council is able to consider parking charges and fees across the whole Council area both on street and off street

This enables recent inflationary pressures to be considered along with maintaining its ability to managed the network efficiently by encouraging changes to alternative methods of transport by the use of pricing.

Background Papers

25. Annual Budget Meeting decisions

Paper A – Appendix 2, Transformation, Income and Savings by Executive Directorate [Paper A - Appendix 2 TSIPG, item 5..pdf \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

- Item 80 – Increase in On-Street Car Parking Fees – Increase fees by 10% inflationary costs and look at charging all year round.
- Item 81 – Increase in Off-Street Car Parking Fees - Increase Fees by 10% inflationary costs.

Appendices




Appendix 1 and 2 – details of individual location increases

Report Sign-Off

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	07-06-2023
Communications	Chris Palmer	09-06-2023
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	16-06-2023
Workforce	Chris Squire	26-05-2023
Asset Management	Oliver Woodhams	31-05-2023
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Mickey Green	13-06-2023
Strategy & Performance	Alyn Jones	28-05-2023
Executive Lead Member	Mike Rigby – Transport & Digital	24-05-2023
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	n/a	
Opposition Spokesperson	Diogo Rodrigues	09-06-2023 Considered and commented
Scrutiny Chair	Martin Dimery	05-06-2023

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer or www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment

Organisation prepared for (mark as appropriate)	 Somerset Council		 NHS Somerset		 NHS Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	
Version	1.0		Date Completed	26 May 2023		
Description of what is being impact assessed						
Review of parking fees and charges						
Evidence						
What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics , Somerset Intelligence Partnership , Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) , Staff and/ or area profiles ,, should be detailed here						
None						
Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?						

Not considered necessary. The decision to park and pay for parking charges is a discretionary purchase. As charges generally apply during the day alternatives such as public transport remain available.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	□	☒	□
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None – Holders of blue badges continue to receive additional parking time where payment is required or may park in areas where charges do not apply (on Street). 	□	☒	□
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	□	☒	□

Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

N/A

Completed by: Steve Deakin

Date 26 May 2023

Signed off by: Bev Norman

Date 26 May 2023

Equality Lead sign off name: Tom Rutland

Equality Lead sign off date: 1 June 2023

To be reviewed by: (officer name) Steve Deakin

Review date: 26 May 2024