

Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>	Car Parks Fees and Charges 2024-25	
<i>Service Area:</i>	Leisure Culture and Community Wellbeing	
<i>Section:</i>	Town Centre Operations	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Andy Bond	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	02/01/24	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Changed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>New / Proposed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?
<p>To agree the fees and charges applied to users of the car parking service for the financial year 2024-25 for implementation from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>To revise the current Residents Parking Scheme; to introduce a one-off tariff of £1 before 10am (Monday to Saturday) and a one-off tariff of £2 after 3pm (Monday to Saturday) and a one-off tariff of £2 on a Sunday (all day) and £2 on Bank Holidays (all day).</p>
2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?
<p>Visitors and businesses in the town centre, by setting fees that are sustainable and help manage the usage of car parks from a churn perspective, thus ensuring availability throughout the charging period.</p> <p>Supports the Council by ensuring a reasonable return on a valuable asset, which ultimately will assist in facilitating a balanced budget, which in turn supports the delivery of services for residents.</p>

3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

To ensure a fair and appropriate charging rate for services provided. The Council is committed to providing good quality, well maintained, safe and secure parking facilities with easy payment fulfilment options.

4. What barriers exist for both the Council and the groups/people with protected characteristics to enable these outcomes to be achieved?

There are financial barriers to the council due to ongoing control and reductions by government of local government funding, alongside the requirement for the council to become self-funded. The council needs to more carefully target its resources to areas of most need and review and adjust its policies accordingly.

5. Any other relevant background information

The Council continues to face significant financial challenges. The sustained period of austerity since 2010, the ongoing risks and uncertainties over future funding arrangements, the budgetary impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and a sustained period of exceptionally high inflation, have all impacted on the Council's financial position.

The Council's budget strategy is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget. Given the forecast budget deficits it is important that all potential increases to income streams are implemented as soon as possible to help mitigate these pressures.

It is therefore prudent to implement an uplift to assist the Council in achieving a balanced budget for 2024-25 and to continue to recover ground on the increasing costs associated with car park operations.

Providing appropriate parking is key to ensuring a thriving town centre for Chesterfield. While adequate parking is vital to ensure that those who need to drive to access the town centre are able to do so, income from car parking is a vital source of funds to support public services for local authorities and Chesterfield Borough Council is no different on this point.

The new Fees and Charges Policy adopted at Cabinet on 12 December 2023 allows for fees and charges to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the cost of providing the service is recovered. The Fees and Charges Policy was subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment, whereby no negative impacts on those with protected characteristics was found.

Section 2 – Collecting your information

6. What existing data sources do you have to assess the impact of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

The Council commissioned a Car Parking Study to review the current operation and make recommendations to help ensure we maximise the benefit from car parks across the Borough. This study recommended an annual review of fees and charges to ensure price increases capture in year costs and inflation, rather than the previous 2-year cycle of review which exposes the Council to these risks for longer than is financially viable. As such an increase in fees and charges was delivered from 1 November 2023. It is intended that this annual review continues in line with this recommendation.

Reviewing current tariffs has been sensitive to any impact that changes may have on the town centre visitor and business economy. In presenting the new fees and charges schedule, assessments have been undertaken of other providers to ensure that the charges are not unrealistic or unsustainable.

Arup Consultancy who undertook the Parking Study in March 2023 noted that they “estimate a loss of revenue equal to £287,547 per year through the Residents Parking Scheme” and “there may be an opportunity to release some of this lost revenue should amendments or removal of the parking permit take place”.

Section 3 – Additional engagement activities

7. Please list any additional engagement activities undertaken when developing the proposal and completing this EIA. Have those who are anticipated to be affected by the policy been consulted with?		
Date	Activity	Main findings
11/23	Budget Conversation with the wider public on the Council's Budget Strategy Implementation Plan.	<p>The initial phase of the budget conversation closed on 15th December 2023. The survey was available to all for completion (CBC staff, Chesterfield Borough residents, people who work, visit and study in the Borough and local community groups and businesses).</p> <p>Budget Theme 2; 'increasing income and behaving commercially' discussed how the council would like to look at opportunities to ensure that wherever possible the costs of service delivery are recovered, and that there is no cross-subsidy from other service areas. Examples included reviewing the charges for services such as car parking.</p> <p>Responses regarding car parking within the Budget Conversation were varied, some supporting the need for the council to behave more commercially, while others raised concerns about increased prices leading to reduced footfall. However, none of the feedback relating to increased parking charges were linked to any of the protected characteristics.</p> <p>An equalities profile of the respondents was captured when the consultation was conducted and the results broadly represent the profile of the Borough (Census 2021). In particular, the percentage of respondents who identify as having a disability was 22.3%, compared with the Borough profile of 29.7%.</p>

Section 4 – What is the impact?

8. Summary of anticipated impacts. *Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.*

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Disability and long term conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√

9. Details of anticipated positive impacts.

a)	n/a							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
b)								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
c)								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

10. Details of anticipated <u>negative</u> impacts.								
a)	<i>Negative impact:</i> n/a.							
	<i>Mitigating action:</i>							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
b)	<i>Negative impact:</i>							
	<i>Mitigating action:</i>							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
c)	<i>Negative impact:</i>							
	<i>Mitigating action:</i>							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

11. Have all negative impacts identified in the table above been mitigated against with appropriate action?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

Section 5 – Recommendations and monitoring

12. How has the EIA helped to shape the policy, project, service, function or strategy or affected the recommendation or decision?

The council has a duty to achieve a balanced budget and changes to car parking charges / schemes detailed in the report will help to facilitate this. No disproportionate impacts have been identified within the proposals in the report for any protected characteristic, groups or individuals.

The existing discount scheme and parking spaces for people with Blue Badges will remain the same. Blue Badge holders who have chosen not to purchase either weekly or annual savers are not exempt from paying parking fees at any of our off street car parks, as such if they use the residents parking permit they will have to pay the £1 or £2 fee in line with other users.

13. How are you going to monitor the policy, project, service, function or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

The Fees and Charges policy adopted at Cabinet on 12 December 2023 allows for fees and charges to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the cost of providing the service is recovered.

Section 6 – Knowledge management and publication

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	Andy Bond
	Date:	03/01/2024
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	Allison Potter
	Date:	03/01/2024
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service		×
Decision information sent to Policy Service		<input type="checkbox"/>

