

For publication

Car Parks Fees and Charges 2021/22 (TV250)

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15 th December 2020
Cabinet portfolio:	Town Centres and Visitor Economy
Directorate:	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set the fees and charges for Car Parks for implementation from 1 April 2021.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That there should be no increase in the fees and charges for car parks for 2021/22.
- 2.2 That there should be a review of tariffs in 2022/23.
- 2.3 That all residents of the Borough will continue to benefit from free parking in 2021/22 before 10am and after 3pm Monday to Saturday and all-day Sunday, and Bank Holidays at selected surface car parks using the Resident Parking Scheme.
- 2.4 That the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, through delegated authority with the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre and Visitor Economy, apply appropriate negotiated fees for new activities and opportunities that are introduced during the period covered by this report.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 The 2020/21 Car Park Fees and Charges report notes that if the income target for 2020/21 is achieved then there will be no increase in tariffs for 2021/22 and a review will be made for 2022/23. As there has been limited

opportunity to achieve any meaningful income comparison it is felt that the fees and charges review for 2021/22 should take this into consideration and the next review made for 2022/23.

- 3.2 The impact of COVID-19 has significantly reduced car park income since March 2020 and continues to do so. Both visitors, shoppers and worker numbers to the town centre are directly impacting on car park utilisation and income generation.
- 3.3 Although income will not be achieved for 2020/21 to increase any fees for parking could further exacerbate parking uptake and damage the Council's reputation in relation to bringing footfall safely back to the town centre.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted life locally and nationally.
- 4.2 A complete lockdown of the local economy from 23 March for 12 weeks immediately affected car parking income. Both multi-storey car parks were closed and surface car parks utilisation minimal, with charging "discretionary". The return to town centre activity has been both slow and cautious. Income levels for car parks are anticipated to be around 50% below those budgeted for 2020/21. The second national lockdown from 5 November to 2 December has further exacerbated this.
- 4.3 Supporting the town centre economy is at the heart of what we do and continues to be a key priority for the Council. Encouraging people to return in a safe manner back into the town centre is crucial. The Economy Task and Finish Group recognises the importance of investing in town centre support and the need for a long-term recovery plan. It is felt that any increase in parking fees would have an adverse effect on this strategy. The group supports a nil increase.
- 4.4 In September 2020 Pay by Phone was introduced to the Council's Pay and display surface car parks. This allows customers to pay for their parking via smartphone app. It allows customers to not have to make any physical contact with the parking machinery and addresses the criticism of not giving change or not accepting card payments.

4.5 It is anticipated that the new parking equipment for Rose Hill, Soresby Street and Beetwell St MSCP will be installed in the New Year. This will see new equipment at all 3 sites offering the same level of service as Saltergate MSCP. As such selling permits and day savers, accepting card payments and Apple pay.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 That an inflationary increase of 3% or less be applied. It is felt this could undermine any potential to re-stabilise the previous income levels. The decline in town centre parking income and resultant budget deficit for 2020/21 is unprecedented, however this is a short-term issue and will be reviewed for 2022/23.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

6.1 None. A nil increase in fees supports The Council Plan by assisting in the three key objectives, making Chesterfield a thriving Borough, Improving the quality of life for local people and providing value for money services.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

7.1 The impact of COVID-19 is likely to be with us for some time. It is hoped that by April 2021 the usage at car parks will return to close to pre pandemic levels. As such the anticipated income for 2021-22 reflects the original 2020-21 budgets across all sites.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

8.1 None. As the recommendation is not to increase fees no statutory notices are required.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 None. The recommendations have no negative HR implications.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
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Increase in charges may result in lower usage and income	M	H	Not to increase charges	L	M
Damage to Council's reputation	M	M	Not to increase charges	L	M

11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

11.1 None. The proposals have no negative impacts on our community well-being strategy.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

12.1 None. The proposals have no negative impacts on our economy and skills strategy.

13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1 None. The proposals have no negative impacts on our Climate Change strategy. The changes required to support both active travel and the rise of electric vehicle usage is a key priority within the Council Plan. The installation of 25 EV charging points in town centre car parks outlines the Council's ambition to support and develop further its response to climate change. Further considerations include exponential growth of EV charge points, enhanced cycle racks and routes (in conjunction with DCC) and the development of cycle hubs within the town centre.

14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1 None. The proposals have no negative impacts on any of our equality and diversity groups. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not deemed necessary.

Decision information

Key decision number	982
Wards affected	All wards

Document information

Report author	
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Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Fees and Charges 2021-22 / 2022-23