

## For publication

### Car Parks Fees and Charges 2022-23

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	14 December 2021
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Town Centre and Visitor Economy
<b>Directorate:</b>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set the fees and charges for Car Parks for implementation from 4 April 2022.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the fees and charges for car parks from Monday 4 April 2022 be as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That there should be a review of tariffs in 2024/25, in line with the current Parking Strategy that details a 2-yearly review.
- 2.3 That all residents of the Borough will continue to benefit from free parking in 2022/23 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.
- 3.2 The impact of COVID-19 significantly reduced car park income in 2021/22 however parking numbers have started to return to more normal levels of occupancy. It is anticipated that by 2022/23 levels will be back to pre-pandemic numbers.
- 3.3 It is imperative that the Council receives an appropriate return on a valuable town centre asset. The Council's budget strategy is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget. Given the forecast budget challenges it is important that all income streams are reviewed to support the delivery of a sustainable budget. As such a review of Car Park fees and charges is appropriate and where practical an uplift implemented to assist the Council in achieving a balanced budget for 2022/23.

#### **4.0 Report details**

- 4.1 The Council has previously reviewed Car Parks fees and charges every other year. As such it is already anticipated there would be a review for 2022/23, normally the prior financial year performance helps inform the fees review based on occupancy and income levels. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is not possible to review these as there was significant interruption to the operation of car parks.
- 4.2 Having reviewed current tariffs, it is felt that any changes should be sensitive to any impact it may have on the town centre visitor and business economy, any increase that is viewed as un-realistic and unsustainable regarding the existing town centre offer could have a negative effect on visitor numbers or dwell time once parked.
- 4.3 A review of other fees and charges in towns similar in size to Chesterfield would indicate that the proposed increase in fees is relevant, comparable and proportionate. A benchmarking exercise is at Appendix 2.
- 4.4 The Council is committed to providing good quality, well maintained, safe and secure parking facilities. The proposed increase in charges ensures these standards can be maintained and future investment in our sites continues. The replacement Saltergate MSCP, Beetwell Street MSCP repair

scheme and replacement Pay on Foot equipment are evidence of this commitment.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

- 5.1 To not increase the fees and charges for 2022/23, however this would not assist the Council in delivering a balanced budget. It would also widen the gap between the last increase to 3 years since any fees and charges increases was delivered; this would make any future increase further compounded by having to potentially catch up on previous years nil increases.
- 5.2 A larger increase could be applied to the current fees and charges. It is felt that the proposed fees which are being proposed are sensitive and realistic, with the variable 10p and 20p increases on each hourly tariff being sustainable.
- 5.3 To remove the Residents Parking Scheme which allows residents of the Borough to park for free before 10am and after 3pm, Monday to Saturday and all day on Sunday's and Bank Holidays. The uptake of this scheme was last reviewed in 2017 and it was evident that it was very well used, with around 70% of people parking during the scheme times on the car parks where it was valid making use of their permit. A review has been commissioned to check the level of usage in 2021 to help better understand resident parking scheme use. The removal of this scheme is not recommended as it is seen as supporting town centre businesses.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 6.1 The anticipated income for 2022/23 is £2,353,680.
- 6.2 It is anticipated the proposed tariff increase in fees will generate an additional £143,000 in income, as such an overall income of £2,496,680.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 7.1 Statutory notices will be required notifying any increase in tariffs.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 8.1 None. The recommendations have no negative Human Resources implications.

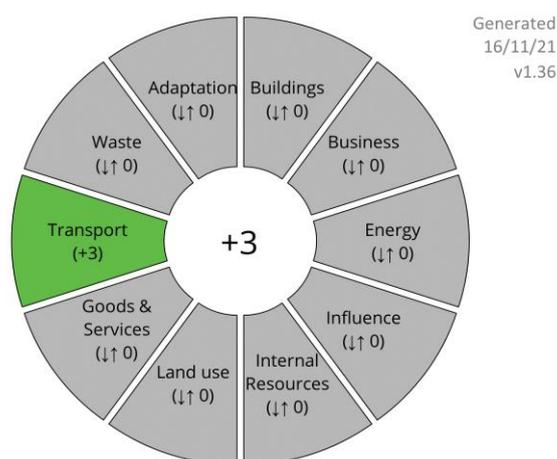
## 9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 None. A sensitive 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.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1 A completed climate change impact assessment was undertaken for this report the outcome from this is detailed at 10.2.

10.2 Infographic below.



Chesterfield Borough Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 1 months away).

## 11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 The completed equality impact assessment can be found at Appendix 3.

## 12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Increase in charges may result in lower usage and income	M	M	Not to increase charges	L	L

Damage to Council's reputation	M	M	Not to increase charges	L	L
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### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	1062
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
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<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	Car Park Fees and Charges 2022/23.
Appendix 2	Benchmarking Exercise.
Appendix 3	Equality Impact Assessment.