

Dear Stakeholder

Car Parking Charges Review 2020 – Consultation

On 23 July 2020 I authorised a review of car parking charges in order to address some feedback received about parking in the Covid-19 recovery. In January 2020 I had already begun to work with officers on potential options to improve our parking regime to enable the council to meet its future ambitions, as outlined in the County Plan.

The County Plan 2020 – 24 identifies the three areas which will be our focus; The Environment, Our Communities, and The Local Economy. Our parking arrangements in town centres are an important part of this where we want to encourage visitors and spending, whilst acknowledging the impact on the environment and congestion that private car use has. Parking charges are an essential function in the management of urban centres and the income for parking charges supports vital work that the council needs to carry out, such as maintaining roads or school travel.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also brought with it many other challenges for all, not least how we are to support our towns and city centres in the recovery period, whilst promoting more sustainable and healthier modes of transport such as walking and cycling.

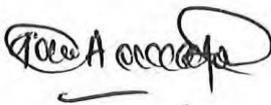
Recently, I have had requests for parking concessions and I was pleased to be able to deliver 4 weeks of free parking to kick start the recovery – this is not sustainable long term financially or environmentally. However, I do recognise that there may be some benefit in considering longer term concessions where they can positively support dwell time and space turnover – whilst encouraging visitors.

This is why we now need your input and local expertise as a key stakeholder.

Based on feedback that we have informally received to date enclosed is a fully costed revised car parking charges proposal we have worked on in recent weeks. I would be grateful if you could review the detail of the proposals and tell us what you think will work well and what will not work so well. There is also opportunity for you to tell us anything else that we may not have considered. I really hope that you are able to feedback, and I intend to have further discussions with stakeholders who have been in touch personally in order to get their insights and make sure we make best use of their knowledge.

It is important that you respond to this consultation, where I can then make a formal decision on the outcome and any changes that we implement.

Yours sincerely



Cllr J Harrington
Cabinet Member Infrastructure & Transport

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