

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of activity:	Variation (Increases) to Parking Charges	Date Completed:	10/1/203
Directorate / Division responsible for activity:	Technical Services	Lead Officer:	Nat Slade
Existing Activity	yes	New / Proposed Activity	no
		Changing / Updated Activity	yes

What are the aims / main purposes of the activity?

The proposal is to increase our off-street parking charges, to continue to support the needs of businesses, workers, shoppers, commuters, and visitors, whilst optimising yield from parking in 23/24 in line with the corporate charging principles

What are the main actions and processes involved?

To increase off street parking charges within the District

Who is intended to benefit & who are the main stakeholders?

The main stakeholders are users of our Car Parks. This includes residents and people who work within the district. The car parks support significant volumes of visitors to the area, particularly during summer season and school holidays.

Local business rely upon availability of car parking spaces for their customers and staff.

The Council's car parks help facilitate events run by a variety of organisers including Town and Parish Councils.

All our car park customers will benefit from an adequately resourced parking service with well-maintained car parks and modern, convenient ways of transacting business.

Disabled users of our Car Parks who display a blue badge benefit from free all-day parking in all of our car parks in any space.

Users of certain town Center car parks in Littlehampton are able to park for 2 hours free of charge when displaying a Littlehampton Disc. Users of certain town center car parks can also obtain a disc from Bognor Regis Business Improvement District which allows 2-hour free parking for a year for a modest annual fee.

Have you already consulted on / researched the activity?

Consultation has not been undertaken as part of the process of preparing this report for decision. The proposed changes are allowed under of a Notice of Variation under Section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Regulation 25 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. If Committee agree to these changes, we are required to advertise these changes in the press for 21 days.

Bench marking has been completed comparing other district councils' charges

An external consultation was undertaken with Arundel & Downland Community Trust regarding their charging structure.

Impact on people with a protected characteristic (What is the potential impact of the activity? Are the impacts high, medium or low?)

Protected characteristics / groups	Is there an impact (Yes / No)	If Yes, what is it and identify whether it is positive or negative
Age (older / younger people, children)	No	
Disability (people with physical / sensory impairment or mental disability)	No	<p>Whilst there is no direct impact based on disability. All users of our car parks will see an increase in charges. This may have an impact on those who are economically disadvantaged.</p> <p>All car park users continue to have access to 2 hours free parking for certain town centre car parks in Bognor and Littlehampton</p> <p>Holders of blue badges can continue to park for free all day in all our off street car parks, in any car parking space.</p> <p>There will continue to be an option to purchase town centre and seasonal permits. All users of these permits will benefit for any length of stay in town centres or seasonal car park at a considerable reduced rate</p>
Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one gender to another.)	No	
Marriage & civil partnership (Marriage is defined as a 'union between a man and a woman'. Civil partnerships are legally recognized for same-sex couples)	No	

Pregnancy & maternity (Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant & maternity refers to the period after the birth)	No	
Race (ethnicity, colour, nationality or national origins & including gypsies, travellers, refugees & asylum seekers)	No	
Religion & belief (religious faith or other group with a recognised belief system)	No	
Sex (male / female)	No	
Sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual)	No	
Whilst Socio economic disadvantage that people may face is not a protected characteristic; the potential impact on this group should be also considered	Yes	<p>Whilst there is no intended impact based on socio economically disadvantaged people- all who use our off-street parking will see an increase in charges. This could have an impact on those who are economically disadvantaged. However, the costs of parking stays equate only to a small percentage of the annual costs of running a motor vehicle and therefore the impact is small. All Car Park users will still be able to park for 2 hours free in some town centre car parks in Littlehampton & Bognor Regis.</p> <p>There will continue to be an option to purchase town centre and seasonal permits. All users of these permits will benefit for any length of stay in town centres or seasonal car park at a considerable reduced rate</p>

What evidence has been used to assess the likely impacts?

The Government published information in December 2022 advising the cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. Higher inflation affects the affordability of goods and services for households. The Government Office of Budget expects the real post tax household income to fall in 2022/23

Decision following initial assessment

Continue with existing or introduce new / planned activity	Yes	Amend activity based on identified actions	No
---	------------	---	-----------

Action Plan			
Impact identified	Action required	Lead Officer	Deadline
Yes	To minimise the risk of having a socio-economic impact, the proposal is to continue to provide 2-hour free parking in certain town center car parks in Bognor and Littlehampton for a modest administrative fee where relevant. The Council also offers free parking in certain outlying car parks. The Council will continue to offer annual/monthly permits at a reduced rate, which provides 24-hour parking in town center car parks along with an option to purchase seasonal permits.		

Monitoring & Review	
Date of last review or Impact Assessment:	n/a
Date of next 12 month review:	n/a
Date of next 3 year Impact Assessment (from the date of this EIA):	n/a

Date EIA completed:	17/01/2023
Signed by Person Completing:	Lisa Emmens Interim Parking Services Manager