

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>Name of activity:</b>	River Road car park review	<b>Date Completed:</b>	04/05/2024		
<b>Directorate / Division responsible for activity:</b>	<b>Technical Services</b>	<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Nat Slade		
<b>Existing Activity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>New / Proposed Activity</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Changing / Updated Activity</b>	<b>Y</b>

### What are the aims / main purposes of the activity?

The proposed changes support the Off-Street Parking Strategy 2021–2026 by continuing to review our charging structure to consider the changing needs of residents, visitors and businesses within the district.

To update Arun District Council’s Parking Order to regularise operational matters and support the proposed charging structure changes.

To introduce both pay & display and leased parking within River Road car park, Arundel, with effect from when the Environment Agency vacate the site. 10 spaces within the car park would become pay & display and 4 spaces would be offered for lease.

### What are the main actions and processes involved?

To seek to identify the best way of using the Council’s car park assets to deliver the Arun Council Vision 2022-2026 aims of fulfilling Arun’s economic potential and supporting our environment to support us.

To update and amend Arun District Council’s Parking Order to support proposed changes to the parking charging structure, alongside regularising operational matters.

To determine and implement the required amendments to the Parking Order.

To determine the required terms and conditions within the leases and the appropriate methods of advertisement and sale.

### 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 the Town Council. 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.

Having another pay & display car park within Arundel would support footfall and provide much needed additional parking to visitors and shoppers during peak times. Arundel is a tourist destination and holds numerous events which attract visitors throughout the year. The addition of 10 more pay & display bays would provide further parking close to the town centre and would generate revenue throughout the year.

Leasing four spaces within the car park would provide a guaranteed space for the customer, regardless of parking demand throughout the year. This would be especially valuable during the summer months and during events such as Arundel Festival, when thousands of people head to Arundel and parking is at a premium. For residents and people working in Arundel, this would ensure that they are always able to park close to their home or place of work.

Crown Yard car park, which is close proximity to River Road car park, will remain available for shoppers and visitors to the area to use throughout the year. 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.

#### **Have you already consulted on / researched the activity?**

Consultation has been carried out with Ward members, Arundel Town Councillors, and the general public to gather preferences on the preferred management option for the car park.

As part of the proposed changes to River Road car park, West Sussex County Council must be consulted. West Sussex County Council must be made aware of any changes which may affect users of on-street parking, for which they are responsible. Comments on the proposed changes have been sought from WSCC and have been included within section 5.4 (a) of the River Road Car Park Review report.

The public were consulted between 17th April – 8th May 2024, via post across three social media platforms, the front-page of the Council's website, along with paper consultation forms available at the Civic Centre, Bognor Regis Town Hall and Arundel Town Council. Paper consultation forms were also provided to Ward members to circulate at the Arundel town market.

A total of 107 responses were received by Arun District Council during this period. All representations were considered as they were received throughout the consultation period.

Operating the car park as a pay & display car park, identical to neighbouring Crown Yard car park, ranked fourth following the consultation.

34% of respondents opted for this management option as their first or second choice, while 39% opted to place this fifth or sixth.

Leasing spaces within the car park could generate the highest income for ADC. Following the public consultation, this option ranked fifth. A total of 30% of respondents chose this option as their first or second choice, while 43% of respondents ranked this as their fifth or sixth choice.

<b>Impact on people with a protected characteristic</b> (What is the potential impact of the activity? Are the impacts high, medium or low?)		
<b>Protected characteristics / groups</b>	<b>Is there an impact (Yes / No)</b>	<b>If Yes, what is it and identify whether it is positive or negative</b>
<b>Age</b> (older / younger people, children)	No	Arun District Council car parks throughout the district have ticket machines installed, where motorists are required to either pay by phone or obtain a ticket to display in their vehicles. The installation of a pay and display machine, alongside the requirement to obtain a ticket, is not considered to have an adverse impact on elderly residents or visitors.
<b>Disability</b> (people with physical / sensory impairment or mental disability)	No	Blue Badge holders were previously unable to park within River Road car park unless they were also a seasonal permit holder. Disabled users of our car parks who display a valid blue badge benefit from free all-day parking in all of our pay & display and free car parks, in any space.
<b>Gender reassignment</b> (the process of transitioning from one gender to another.)	No	
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b> (Marriage and registered civil partnerships)	No	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b> (Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant & maternity refers to the period after the birth)	No	

<b>Race</b> (ethnicity, colour, nationality or national origins & including gypsies, travellers, refugees & asylum seekers)	No	
<b>Religion &amp; belief</b> (religious faith or other group with a recognised belief system)	No	
<b>Sex</b> (male / female)	No	
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual)	No	
Whilst <b>Socio economic</b> disadvantage that people may face is not a protected characteristic; the potential impact on this group should be also considered	<b>Yes</b>	<p>Whilst there is no intended impact based on socio economically disadvantaged people, all who use our off-street parking in River Road will see a change to the charging structure. 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.</p> <p>The leased spaces will be led by the market and will not have a set retail price point. This enables interested parties to bid on the spaces at a rate they consider to be reasonable within the current market parameters, ensuring good value.</p> <p>Free of charge on-street parking is also available within Arundel.</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.

**Decision following initial assessment**

<b>Continue with existing or introduce new / planned activity</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Amend activity based on identified actions</b>	<b>N</b>
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<b>Action Plan</b>			
<b>Impact identified</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Yes	<p>Whilst there is no intended impact based on socio economically disadvantaged people, all who use our off-street parking in River Road will see a change to the charging structure. 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.</p> <p>The leased spaces will be led by the market and will not have a set retail price point. This enables interested parties to bid on the spaces at a rate they consider to be reasonable within the current market parameters, ensuring good value.</p> <p>Free of charge on-street parking is also available within Arundel.</p>		

<b>Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	
<b>Date of last review or Impact Assessment:</b>	N/A
<b>Date of next 12 month review:</b>	N/A
<b>Date of next 3 year Impact Assessment (from the date of this EIA):</b>	N/A

<b>Date EIA completed:</b>	05/06/2024
<b>Signed by Person Completing:</b>	Jasmine Gander – Principal Parking Services Officer