



Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 14 November 2023

Title of report: Revision of Car Parking Tariffs / Charges

Purpose of report: To seek approval for revised parking tariffs / tariffs for on-street parking bays and off-street car parking across Kirklees.

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| Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions. | Yes Affects all wards |
| Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u> | Key Decision – Yes Private Report - No |
| The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny? | Yes |
| Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning? | David Shepherd – 18 September 2023 Isabel Brittain – 18 September 2023 Julie Muscroft (Legal) |
| Cabinet member portfolio | Cllr Y Hussain |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Cabinet

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? This report contains no information that falls within the scope of General Data Protection Regulations.

1. Summary

- 1.1. Kirklees Council operates both off-street car parks and on-street parking bays across the district. Parking tariffs vary across the district, with some car parks being free of any charges currently.
- 1.2. Parking tariffs have remained unchanged since 2009.
- 1.3. It is proposed to increase existing tariffs by inflation, retrospectively back to 2009 and to introduce a comparable rate on car parks that are currently free of charges.
- 1.4. Charges for car parking in Council – owned parking areas will be 6 days a week Monday to Saturday inclusive with Sunday charging in a select number of car parks.
- 1.5. A review of short stay and long stay provision will also be undertaken, to reflect changing demand for retail, commuter and cultural time spent in our town and village centres.
- 1.6. Under the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, fees and charges must be reviewed at least once per annum. It is proposed to revise car parking charges / tariffs annually thereafter.
- 1.7. It is anticipated that revised car parking charges will be introduced from January 2024.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1. Kirklees Council has the authority to impose charges for parking in Council – operated car parks, as well as designating parking places on the highway and charging for the use of them. The retrospective increase in parking charges is by the rate of inflation retrospectively back to the previous change in 2009.
- 2.2. Car parking tariffs/charges have remained unchanged in Kirklees since 2009. Benchmarking of parking charges across the region indicates that parking charges / tariffs in Kirklees are significantly lower than those in other Yorkshire districts.
- 2.3. This decision seeks to set parking charges that are appropriate and consistent within the region.
- 2.4. The proposal is to uplift tariffs across the district and to expand charging to Council car parks that are currently free of charge. See **Table 1** and **Table 2** for overview of proposed parking tariffs / charges.

Table 1 – Proposed tariffs / charges - Huddersfield

| | Current | Proposed |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minimum tariff / charge | 70p per hour | £1.10 per hour |
| Maximum tariff / charge | £4 / all day (long stay) | £6.50 / all day (long stay) |

Table 2 – Proposed tariffs / charges – Dewsbury & other towns / villages

| | Current | Proposed |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minimum tariff / charge | 5p per hour | 50p per hour |
| Maximum tariff / charge | £4 / all day (long stay) | £6.50 / all day (long stay) |

- 2.5. The revised tariffs/charges are expected to be introduced in January 2024, once the relevant legal procedures have been completed. This includes publishing of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) and undertaking statutory consultation. **Appendix 2** lists the car parks that are currently free of charge.
- 2.6. Future revisions of parking tariffs / charges will be implemented annually to achieve budget targets, account for changes in legislation and market conditions. This will be in line with inflation, rounded to the nearest 10p and will include revision of existing and implementation of new charges. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules, under delegated authority to the relevant Service Director responsible for the Parking Service.
- 2.7. Management of the Council's on and off-street public parking efficiently seeks to assist in achieving the objectives of the Local Transport Strategy, recognising the need to achieve and maintain the balance of supply and demand in the total number of available parking spaces as important factors in providing for local transport needs, retail and for commuters to employment zones. See **Appendix 1** for the draft Kirklees Parking Statement.
- 2.8. Revised parking tariffs recognises the need to maintain the vitality and viability of town centres as centres for shopping / retail, visitors, employment and culture. Short stay and long stay parking provision will be reviewed as town centre vibrancy changes. If there is a change in parking capacity, a review of parking charges will be undertaken.
- 2.9. Local and regional transport and travel planning will continue to encourage alternative means of transport including public transport, walking and cycling as more sustainable modes than car usage.
- 2.10. The Council will continue to actively enforce parking restrictions and regulations across the district, in line with relevant legislation. This prevents misuse of parking facilities, eases congestion and seeks to reduce accidents on our roads.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The proposed changes to parking tariffs / charges will require key services to work closely together proactively.

3.2 Working with Partners

As part of the process for introducing the revised parking tariffs / charges, key partners will be notified to help identify potential opportunities to collaborate.

3.3 Place Based Working

The proposed changes are intended to provide a comparable rate for parking tariffs / charging across the district.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The proposals may encourage more sustainable travel and is not expected to have a detrimental effect on Air Quality or Climate Change.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The proposals seek to manage the Council's car parking options, supporting active travel for all users including children.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

The proposals seek to introduce a comparable rate for parking tariffs / charges across the district, reducing the gap between charges in Kirklees and the rest of the region. Long and short stay parking spaces will be available throughout the district to meet the needs of commuters, the retail sector, tourism and residents.

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

3.7.1 Under section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act"), the Council may provide off street parking places and charge for the use of them. Under section 45 of the Act, the Council may designate parking places on a highway and charge for their use and to issue parking permits for a charge.

3.7.2 Under regulations 3 and 4 of the Local Authority (Transport Charges) Regulations 1998, where the Council has designated a parking place under section 45, it may suspend the parking place and, where that is upon request, charge for the provision of this service.

Also under the 1998 Regulations, where the Council has made a traffic regulation order for the regulation of traffic, it may impose a charge for the consideration of any application to suspend parking restrictions under the order. It is for the Council to decide the appropriate charge and in doing so it should have regard to the cost of providing the service. It is however not bound to set the charges at cost recovery only. The Council therefore has the power to impose parking charges in connection with the provision of on street parking and off street parking. It may also impose charges connected with the suspension of parking bays and provide dispensation for exemption from parking restrictions. It also has the power to make the proposed amendments to those charges as detailed in this report.

3.7.3 Section 122 of the 1984 Act imposes a general duty on the Council to exercise its functions under the 1984 Act to “secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic and to provide suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway”. Collectively, these criteria may be referred to as “traffic management purposes”. In exercising these functions, the Council should have regard to, amongst other things, any other matters appearing to them to be relevant. The Council when exercising the function of setting parking charges is required to have regard to the traffic management purposes.

3.7.4 Section 55 of the 1984 Act requires the Council to keep a separate account of their income and expenditure in respect of designated parking places including the parking charges and this aids decision making on revising charges. Section 55(4) of the Act sets out the purposes for which any surplus income in respect of designated parking places can be used. Any surplus income in respect of designated parking places must be used for these purposes, which include:

- (a) Provision and maintenance of off street parking
- (b) Meeting costs incurred in the provision or operation of public Transport
- (c) Highway and road improvements and maintenance
- (d) Reducing environmental pollution
- (e) Improving public open spaces.

3.7.5 <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/integrated-impact-assessments/home/details/IIA-546833559/>

4 Consultation

Statutory Consultation will be undertaken as part of the legal process required to make the changes. Following the consultation, a statutory consultation report will be compiled and presented for consideration prior to the implementation of the new charging regime.

5 Engagement

Cabinet members.

6 Next steps and timelines

To publish the Parking Places Order amendment, in line with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. To amend signage, parking machine tariff / charges and web-based information. To implement in January 2024.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

The proposed changes to parking tariffs / charges seek to provide a comparable rate for parking across the district, to remove historic areas of free parking and to adjust Kirklees parking tariffs to reflect the regional transportation strategic approach. For these reasons, the Officer recommendation is to support the proposal to revise the parking tariffs / charges.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Portfolio Holder acknowledges and supports the recommendations.

9 Contact officer

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10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201003301600/Agenda/CABINET30031039281D.pdf>

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201003301600/Agenda/Cabinet20100330DecisionSummary.pdf>

11 Service Director responsible

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