



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 30 July 2020
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams app

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Contact Officer: Mike Jones
Tel: 0151 691 8363
e-mail: michaeljones1@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

3. **CALLED-IN BUSINESS - REINTRODUCTION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES (Pages 1 - 4)**

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Car Parking Charges Options	Financial Implications	Health and Safety Implications associated with COVID	Economic Implications for the High Street	Other Considerations
Continue to suspend all car parking charges for 1month, 2 months or longer?	Loss of income in the region of £35,500 per week.	May encourage large number of shoppers / visitors and lead to an increased spread of the virus if social distancing can't easily be maintained.	May be seen to fully support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	Scrapping all parking charges would result in lost income in the order of £1.8 million from parking charges and £300k from parking fines.
Reintroduce car parking charges in full	After any initial surge back to the shops the best guess estimate is we would see a 30% to 40% return in months 2 to 3 and then a steady rise although it may be several years before parking returns to pre COVID levels. Income is likely to be up to 60% down for the same period last year. If charges reinstated from mid June the predicted car parking income for the whole financial year 2020/21 could be as low as £550k	Reintroduction of parking charges may discourage some visitors to the shopping areas or parks which may assist in social distancing (less people = more space) and slow down the rate of infection of the virus.	May be seen as a negative and uncaring move from the council to reintroduce charges at a time when most shops are just reopening and trying to get back on their feet.	It could be that everyone may be wanting to go shopping as they did when IKEA first opened, 5-hour queues and McDonalds with half mile queues. Potentially the shops will be offering better deals than black Friday the shops could be mobbed from the 15 th with people suffering from a lack of retail therapy they will not be bothered about paying for their parking if charges are reinstated.
Free parking after 3pm	Based on the predicted income of £550k for the financial year this could be further reduced by up to £70k	May encourage a higher number of shoppers / visitors after 3pm and lead to an increased spread of the virus if social distancing can't easily be maintained.	May be seen to partially support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	The first 2 to 4 weeks could be manic it's after this period that things may change, and the landscape look a lot different where it may be better to wait to see what happens before giving any long term offers away as far as charging is concerned.
Free weekend parking	Based on the predicted income of £550k for the financial year this could be further reduced by up to £50k	May encourage a higher number of shoppers / visitors at weekends and lead to an increased spread of the virus if social distancing can't easily be maintained.	May be seen to partially support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	As above
Free parking on car parks - reintroduce on-street and Country Parks car parking charges	Based on the predicted income of £550k for the financial year this could be further reduced by up to £370k	Reintroduction of parking charges in some locations may discourage some visitors to the shopping areas or parks which may assist in social distancing (less people = more space) and slow down the rate of infection of the virus.	May be seen to partially support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	As above

First 2 hours parking is Free	Approximately 75% of all ticket sales are for 1 to 2 hours. Based on the predicted income of £550k for the financial year this could be further reduced by up to £400k	May encourage a higher number of shoppers / visitors at various times taking advantage of the free parking periods and lead to an increased spread of the virus if social distancing can't easily be maintained.	May be seen to partially support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	This is a difficult proposal to administer as it creates problems associated from drivers having to obtain a P&D ticket for 2 hours free parking (in the past when we tried this we had youths standing at the machines pressing the ticket button and hundreds of tickets being tossed all over the car parks). Alternatively if the enforcement officers had to log in every vehicle into their hand held computers and give a 2 hour observation before enforcement then this would be very onerous and an ineffective use of resource.
Reintroduce all parking charges but have a concession if you use the cashless parking facility to pay for your parking	As an example we could introduce a flat rate of £1 per parking session or 50p per hour. The income for either option is difficult to estimate in the current landscape.	Normal parking habits would exist, this proposal would not lead to any spikes in parking and therefore there is no increased or decreased COVID risk	May be seen to partially support the economic recovery of our town centres and high streets	Promote the use of Cashless system to pay for parking as its more convenient and is COVID secure as no cuing at machines, no touching of machines. Would assist our longer term aim of moving to a completely cashless system for payments.
Support a link to free parking if using local businesses so can get refund through sale in the shops	Some costs associated with the running of such schemes	Unless this was set up entirely through the cashless parking solution (mobile phone app), then it would increase potential contact at the P&D machine and within the store between the shopper and the salesperson.	May be seen as a negative and uncaring move from the council to reintroduce charges at a time when most shops are just reopening and trying to get back on their feet. Onus on the business to give a refund, affects business profits. No evidence to suggest this is an attractive offer for shoppers.	ASDA do this, Liscard Cherry Tree centre shops do this informally, Heswall already operate a scheme. Takes several months to set up these types of schemes.

APPENDIX - 2

What other authorities are doing

Council	Action regarding car parking charges and enforcement	From When
Sefton	In Sefton we continued to enforce higher level contraventions where there was a clear danger / obstruction. From last week we recommenced normal enforcement and signed car parks to show that charges applied. We have been issuing warning notices for failing to pay and display and will continue this (but not for multiple offenders!) until Sunday, starting full enforcement from Monday 8th.	08/06/2020
Liverpool	Charges return to pay and display bays in Liverpool city centre, charges are needed to be reintroduced so shops can reopen safely.	15/06/2020
Knowsley	Parking charges continue to be suspended, enforcement restarts from 8th June 2020.	Ongoing
St Helens	Parking charges continue to be suspended,	Ongoing
Cheshire West and Chester	Business as usual here on enforcement and back office however we have stopped bailiff visits. We are shutting down some of our car parks that stay open of a night time and have limited our park and ride to Monday to Saturday every half hour instead of 12 minutes. Parking charges will continue.	Ongoing
Oldham	Oldham are starting charging and enforcing again as from tomorrow – issuing warning notices for one week	03/06/2020
Derbyshire Dales	We reintroduced pay and display 2 weeks ago, when the PM announced that there was no limit on daily travel or exercise time. Not surprisingly we were inundated with visitors. Message is that visitors follow Covid-19 Secure guidance if using our car parks (that they take responsibility for hand cleansing/washing as soon as possible and not touch their faces in the interim). We're also having a cleaning team visit the car parks twice each day to sanitise the machine fascia's. Contactless payments have jumped from an average of 16% (pre-covid) to almost 60% but not all sites have the capability. Now looking at phone payment options with colleagues on the Derbyshire Parking Board	18/05/2020
Borough of Barrow-in-Furness	Not looking at doing anything in June, waiting to see what other councils are doing from July onwards. Even though we are a really small authority, we've taken a big hit financially through not charging for P&D or our contract/season ticket parking.	July onwards
West Lancashire Borough Council	Our Council Members have decided to suspend parking charges and enforcement in Ormskirk in West Lancashire until September to assist the economic recovery of the town centre.	October onwards
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	We're currently setting up meetings to discuss this. It's a tricky one! Sorry that I don't have any answers/conclusions at the moment.	02/06/2020

Calderdale MBC	<p>Recommended proactive enforcement w/c 18 May – we focused on higher level contraventions for the first week (yellow lines, bus stops, taxi ranks, clearways etc) and didn't use warnings, as no one should be parking in/on these restrictions.</p> <p>What we found was that by having the CEO's proactively patrolling, by default started encouraging the turnover of loading and disabled bays. Enforcement of the loading and disabled then commenced w/c 25 May – we used warning notices for 2 days and then PCN's.</p> <p>Introduced On Street charges this week (w/c 1 June) – warning notices for 2 days, PCN's from tomorrow.</p> <p>Plan to introduced off street charges from W/c 15 June - warning notices for 2 days and PCN's from day 3</p> <p>We plan to start looking at resident permit areas w/c 29 June – we've left these till last due to the increased numbers working at home, but we will consider isolated cases, if it is felt a safety or obstruction is being caused.</p>	Phased approach from 18th May
Wigan	<p>We are currently allowing free parking (not advertised as such, but the fact people know we are not enforcing they are not paying for parking). We are issuing warning notices as opposed to PCNs should vehicle be parked in contravention, but most of our CEOs have been helping out with traffic management at the recycling centres and other locations.</p> <p>We are reviewing when to start charging and going back to issuing PCNs. I would imagine it will be in the next couple of weeks, in line with when the none essential shops are allowed to open i.e. 15.06.20</p>	Possibly from 15/06/2020
Burnley	<p>We have never offered free parking, just stopped enforcement during lockdown. Income levels and car park usage are about 10% of normal.</p> <p>Enforcement has resumed in the last 2 weeks in the form of a warning notice first, then PCN for repeat offender....but this may change come the 15 June.</p>	18/05/2020
South Lakeland District Council	Enforcement stopped but the car parks remained open.	Ongoing