

Medium Term Financial Plan

Initial Equality Impact Assessment of Budget Proposal 2024/25



1. The Proposal

Budget Theme: Income - linked to the parking strategy

Budget reference: INC03

Budget proposal 2024/25 (£): £504,000

The following savings are included within this Theme:

Directorate Reference	Service Area	Budget Proposal	2024/25 Budget reduction
PD02A	Place	Increase existing parking charges and parking permit charges to cover inflationary costs	£404,000
PD06	Parking	Introduction of new parking charges in areas where we do not currently charge and a shoppers permit	£100,000
Total			£504,000

Theme Narrative:

Income linked to the Parking Strategy which includes an annual inflation uplift for existing fees and charges as well as the implementation of new opportunities. The Strategy will look to support flexibility in charging whilst still maintaining income levels.

Summary of changes:

PD02A - Place

Increase existing parking charges and parking permit charges to cover inflationary costs

The cost model to increase the current charges is being developed ready to apply in 2024. This is likely to be implemented in April 2024. The increase in charges will be kept to a minimum. It should be noted that parking charges have not been increased in North Somerset in many years and the rates are significantly lower than other coastal locations.

The exact implementation date of any changes and the proposed suite of charges is yet to be determined following due process for example parking order or appropriate car park order and communications with those effected by the change.

PD06 - Parking

Introduction of new parking charges in areas where we do not currently charge and a shopper permit

Options are being developed for consideration by the Executive to introduce new parking charges in some of the areas where we do not currently charge.

The recommendation will be to commence a 6-week period of consultation on proposals for new charges and other details to include a shoppers' permit.

Following this consultation this equality impact assessment will be updated and re-presented to the appropriate decision-making body before the final decision is made. It's likely that this change will not take effect until part way through the year, following a formal period of notification of the changes.

Is any of the proposals within this theme a continuation of a previous medium-term financial plan saving?

Yes **No**

If yes, please insert reference number and year of assessment?

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference
Parking Charges Review	2022/23	PDS13
Parking Review	2020/21	DE10

If yes, please describe what steps you have taken to review the equality impacts from previous years?

The main element of the 2020/21 parking review proposal that was implemented was the Leigh Woods residents parking and pay & display scheme. The scheme was subject to a review after 6 months operation when feedback from users were collected and no equalities issues were identified. Please see the [report](#) for a summary of the feedback.

2. Customer equality impact summary

Will the proposal have a disproportionate impact on any of these groups?

Budget Proposal	Equality Impacts – Please consider any potential equalities impacts based on the protected groups below. Please answer High (H), Medium (M), Low (L) or None (N)										Positive (+) or Negative(-)
	Disabled People, including those who are neurodiverse	Race	Men or Women, including those who are pregnant	Sexual Orientation	People on a low income	Age	Religion or belief or none	Marriage or civil partnership	Gender reassignment	Other, for example parents, carers or the Armed Forces. *	
PD02A	N	N	N	N	L	N	N	N	N	N	-
PD06	L (+)	N	N	N	L	L	L	N	N	L	-

3. Explanation of customer impact

PD02A - Place

Increase existing parking charges and parking permit charges to cover inflationary costs.

Any increase in charging is likely to disproportionately impact those on a low income. The impact is minimised as the proposed changes will be set at market rates and a range of tariff choices will be available to suit different users where appropriate.

Policies for parking sit within the wider context for integrated transport improvements which include improvements to walking/cycling and public transport services and infrastructure to create a range of travel choices where possible.

It should be noted that parking charges have not been increased in North Somerset for many years, and that there are considerable subsidies currently available for bus transportation which can offer an alternative for some residents.

PD06 - Parking

Introduction of new parking charges in areas where we do not currently charge and a shoppers permit

Disabled people with blue badges will benefit from greater availability of parking spaces, both in dedicated bays and the charged bays where management of parking will increase turnover of users and availability of spaces should increase significantly. Blue badge holders are exempt from on-street Pay & Display charges and time limits.

The implementation of new parking charges is likely to disproportionately impact those on a low income. This impact will be minimised if charging levels are at market rates and will be subject to a formal public consultation as part of scheme development. The shoppers permit will enable regular users to purchase parking at a significant discount on an annual basis. This will mitigate impacts on lower income groups and also reduces the potential displaced parking impacts.

Some faith groups may be affected if charges new charges are proposed near locations used regularly for congregation. Where cases are identified through consultation, opportunities for mitigation will be considered such as adjustments to hours of operation and waiting limits.

Parents/carers may be affected where new charges are applied but improved turnover should make it easier to find a space. Overall health and wellbeing should improve particularly for those who decide to walk or cycle rather than pay for parking.

Please describe how you will communicate these changes to your customers

PD02A - Proposals for increases to existing charges will be communicated by either notification or consultation in line with the car park order process. The charges will also be displayed in the car park sites and on the council website and social media channels.

PD06 - Proposals for introducing charges in areas not currently charged would be subject to one round of informal public consultation for several weeks in addition to a separate statutory 3-week formal consultation in connection with any traffic regulation orders or car park orders that are taken forward.

4. Staff equality impact summary

Are there any staffing implications for this proposal? Yes No

Explanation of staff impact

None

6. Review and Sign Off

Service Manager Review

Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed? Yes No

PD02A - The proposal is to increase charges in-line with inflation and as such is bringing charges in line with previous year's levels. We are below other LA's in the region and increases have been kept to a minimum to reduce impact on residents.

Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed? Yes No

If 'yes', when will the further assessment be completed?

PD06 - This Equality Impact Assessment will be updated following the appropriate consultation on the changes. Expected date May 2024.

Service Manager:

Darren Coffin-Smith

Date:

19 December 2023