

2025/26 Budget Equality Impact Assessment

1. The Project

Directorate: Place
Theme or area: Parking Charges
Lead Officer: Darren Coffin-Smith
Date: 3 December 2024

Budget Reference	Budget Proposal	2025/26 Budget reduction (£)	2026/27 Budget reduction (£)	2027/28 Budget reduction (£)
PD13a	Introduction of new parking charges in areas where we do not currently charge	£400,000		

Description of the project:

Introduction of parking charges in Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead.

Charge for parking in off-street car parks and some on-street car locations to increase income to deliver in year MTFP saving and to fund/develop a medium-long term asset management strategy to allow parking to operate on a sustainable model.

Summary of changes:

As above

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

No

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

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference

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

2. Customer equality impact summary

Will the changes proposed in this project have a disproportionate impact (or bias) for any of these groups?

Insert X into one box per row, for impact level and type.

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low, N = None

+ = Positive, - = Negative

Protected or significant group	Impact Level				Impact type	
	H	M	L	N	+	-
Disabled people (Including the consideration of neurodiversity)				X		
People from different ethnic groups				X		
Men or women (including those who are pregnant or on maternity leave)				X		
People who are LGBTQ+				X		
People on a low income			X			X
People in particular age groups				X		
People in particular faith groups				X		
People who are married or in a civil partnership				X		
People who are undergoing gender reassignment				X		
Other significant groups, for example: Armed Forces Community, care experienced young people, carers, parents. Please specify:				X		

3. Explanation of customer impact

North Somerset Council already charges for parking in Weston and Clevedon. The proposal widens these charges to include more areas in the North of the district. People on low

income may be affected by these changes; however, we already charge in Weston and therefore this is consistent with our existing approach.

It is our intention to keep charges as low as possible whilst and the service to be delivered sustainably.

Accessibility – All car parks have dedicated accessible parking ‘Blue Badge Bays’, a charge will be made for these bays. Existing rules and allowances for blue badge holders remain in place.

We are adopting the model used in Weston and as such this is deemed to be very limited/no impact.

Please describe how you will communicate these changes to those impacted.

Extensive consultation was completed over the summer period with Town councils and our residents. Common themes have been established and considered when designing the model, with consideration given to those want to have free access to leisure facilities. We are still working with these providers to develop the most appropriate model, balancing accessibility and consistency.

Common themes include: -

- Access to facilities
- Impact on high street
- Don't think charges should be applied
- Improved public transport
- Increase investment in highways

4. Staff equality impact summary

Are there any staffing implications for this proposal?

No

Explanation of staff impact

If yes, please describe the nature of the impact, including how many posts could be affected, please state whether they are vacant, or filled permanently or temporarily.

5. Cumulative equality impacts

Is this project linked to or likely to have an impact on any other service areas?

For example are you moving the location of a service that may also be impacted upon by a change to public transport provision.

No

6. Action Plan

Are there any further actions that should be taken because of this Equality Impact Assessment?

Issue Identified	Planned Action	Lead Officer	Time for review
Consider parking access to leisure facilities to promote healthy lifestyles	Further consultation and offer to be developed	Darren Coffin-Smith	April 2025

7. Review and Sign Off

Service Manager Review

Insert any service manager comments here.

Parking charges will be monitored, with impacts assessed. These will be both financial and accessibility. To be initially reviewed after 1st year of operation.

Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed? **No**

Please note that if this assessment indicates a potential 'medium' or 'high' impact on any protected or significant group a further, more detailed assessment will be required.

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

Service Manager: **Darren Coffin-Smith**

Date: 29 November 2024