



Car Park Tariff Review: Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number: 1271

Brief description: Proposal to increase car park tariffs across all our pay and display car parks, extension of charging hours, introduction of charging in some car parks that are currently free, and increase in parking permit charges.

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Responsible Service: Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? Anyone who uses our car parks. Local retailers. Residents affected by displaced parking. Operators of tourist attractions.

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? No

Summary and Conclusion

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

2 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 18 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

A Car Park Investment Plan will be developed over the coming months, to prioritise and plan future investment in our car parks over the next five years. It is suggested that the Investment Plan itself and future monitoring of progress against the Plan should be brought back to a future meeting of Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Prevention

It's possible that increased car parking charges might discourage some people from using their car, but any such impact is likely to be negligible, hence the proposal is considered to have a neutral impact.

Integration

The proposal will not directly contribute to other Well-being goals, nor the delivery of the LDP.

Collaboration

When this WBIA is reviewed and updated in the coming weeks, this will be undertaken by staff from across a number of different teams and services in order to bring a range of skills, experience and perspectives.

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Involvement

There is no statutory requirement to consult upon increasing parking tariffs. The only requirement is to display public notices in the press and affected car parks to list the existing and proposed car park tariffs.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Negative
A more equal Denbighshire	Negative
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Positive
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive

Main conclusions

There are more negative impacts, than positive, owing to the potential financial impact upon individuals. However, this needs to be considered against the fact that the proposed increases are in-line with amount that the cost of goods and services have increased by, due to inflation, since the last tariff increase in 2016.

There are some positive impacts resulting from the increased income enabling us to continue to invest in our car parks.

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Small potential gains resulting from people choosing not to park, are likely to be countered by concerns about a negative impact upon High Street retail performance, albeit there is little evidence to show that increased parking tariffs do actually harm retail performance.

There will be strong concerns about evening charging and the potential impact upon the night-time economy. However, evening charging is fairly commonplace in other North Wales local authorities.

Further actions required

Communication with local business groups will be important to explain the changes and listen to their views.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Increased parking tariffs may possibly encourage some people to walk, cycle or use public transport rather than using their car. However, any such impact is likely to be fairly negligible in an area like Denbighshire where there is high reliance on the car.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

It would enable car park income to be reinvested into improving the quality of car parks and related services, such as highways and traffic infrastructure.

Economic development

Although there will be very strong concerns about the impact on town centre footfall, there is very little evidence from research that supports that view.

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It should also be noted that the proposed changes to car park tariffs are broadly in-line with inflation when considering prices since April 2016 (when our car park tariffs were last increased) to April 2024 when the increased tariffs are likely to be introduced.

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

[TEXT HERE]

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

[TEXT HERE]

Economic development

There is likely to be strong opposition to increasing car park tariffs from retailers, business groups and residents.

Continuing pressures for High Street retailers, including online competition, have seen well-established retailers fold, such as the recent demise of Wilko. There will thus be concern that increased tariffs will be a further deterrent to people visiting town centres.

Evening charging may have a detrimental impact upon some businesses, especially the "night-time" economy.

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

No impact as the proposals relate to increased parking costs, charging for longer periods, and the charging in some car parks that are currently free.

Further actions required

Not applicable

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

No impact as the proposals relate to increased parking costs, charging for longer periods, and the charging in some car parks that are currently free.

Biodiversity in the built environment

No impact

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No impact

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

No impact

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No impact

Flood risk management

No impact

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

No impact

Biodiversity in the built environment

No impact

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No impact

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

No impact

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No impact

Flood risk management

No impact

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

Increased parking costs might possibly impact upon some people's decision-making, when deciding where to shop or whether to take part in certain leisure activities.

Further actions required

The proposed increase in parking tariffs are broadly in line with inflation, since the last car park tariff increase in April 2016. Any negative impacts should be fairly short-lived.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

No impact as the proposals relate to increased parking costs, charging for longer periods, and the charging in some car parks that are currently free.

Access to good quality, healthy food

[TEXT HERE]

People's emotional and mental well-being

[TEXT HERE]

Access to healthcare

[TEXT HERE]

Participation in leisure opportunities

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

No impact

Access to good quality, healthy food

It is possible that increased parking charges may affect where some people choose to undertake their food shopping, if they currently do some of their food shopping in town centres. This may possibly lead to some of these people choosing to shop in supermarkets where parking is free.

People's emotional and mental well-being

The proposals may possibly have a detrimental impact on the emotional and well-being of people who are more directly affected by the proposals. For example, some business owners might be worried about what the long-term impact upon their business might be.

Access to healthcare

It is possible that if the only available parking for a healthcare facility is within a public car park, then there is a small possibility that increased costs might dissuade some people from visiting a healthcare provider.

Participation in leisure opportunities

As some leisure activities may be viewed as "nice to haves" more than essentials; increased parking costs might possibly discourage some people from partaking in leisure opportunities.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

Increased parking costs may potentially have a greater impact upon those who have less disposable

income available, or who are car-dependant.

Further actions required

Raise awareness of areas where blue badge holders can park for free, such as the free parking areas in some car parks, on-street pay and display (in Rhyl). Also consider a campaign to remind blue badge holders that they have an additional hour to park in our car park blue badge bays ("disabled bays"), as this can sometimes mean not needing to pay for the next higher tariff, resulting in a cost saving for the individual.

Promote resident permit as this is a cheaper option.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

[TEXT HERE]

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

No likely impact

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

[TEXT HERE]

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission, those with a work-limiting disability are more likely to be experience a pay gap in comparison to those without this type of disability.

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Increased parking charges may, therefore, have a greater impact upon people with less disposable income. Please note that holders of Blue badges pay standard parking fees in Denbighshire CC car parks, but do receive an additional hour of parking on top of the standard tariff duration. This additional hour is provided because some blue badge holders may require additional time to enter or leave their vehicle, or to travel to their destination.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

No likely impact

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

When viewed in proportion to overall income, increased parking costs are likely to have a greater impact upon those with less disposable income available. This is especially likely to be the case in terms of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

Rural areas such as much of Denbighshire, typically results in greater car-dependency. This means that increased parking charges can potentially have a more significant impact on such communities where other travel options may not be available.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Increasing tariffs broadly in-line with inflation means that it we will be able to continue investing appropriately in our car parks.

Further actions required

Prioritise and plan investment through the implementation of a car park investment plan.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

Increasing car park tariffs in-line with inflation means that we will continue to be able to invest in our car parks, to keep them safe in terms of investing in and maintaining lighting, CCTV, and fire and ventilation systems in Rhyl Central Car Park and Denbigh Multi-Storey Car Park.

Community participation and resilience

No impact as the proposals relate to increased parking costs, charging for longer periods, and the charging in some car parks that are currently free.

The attractiveness of the area

Increasing car park tariffs in-line with inflation means that we will continue to be able to invest in our car parks, to keep them well-maintained and tidy.

Connected communities

Well-managed car parks, are an important part of the transport network.

Rural resilience

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

[TEXT HERE]

Community participation and resilience

[TEXT HERE]

The attractiveness of the area

[TEXT HERE]

Connected communities

[TEXT HERE]

Rural resilience

In rural areas where there is often greater car-dependency, the impact of increased parking charges is likely to be greater.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Not likely to have an impact

Further actions required

Not applicable

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

Not likely to have an impact

Promoting the Welsh language

Not likely to have an impact

Culture and heritage

Not likely to have an impact

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

[TEXT HERE]

Promoting the Welsh language

[TEXT HERE]

Culture and heritage

[TEXT HERE]

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Use of local supply chains.

Further actions required

Continue to use local supplier and contractors wherever possible, whilst ensuring continued compliance with the Council's Procurement Rules (Contract Procedure Rules).

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

Continuing investment in car parks, will generate works for a number of local contractors and suppliers

Human rights

Not likely to have an impact

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

Not likely to have an impact

Reducing climate change

It is possible that increased car park charges might encourage some people to leave their car at home, and use alternative forms of transport such as the bus, cycling or walking. However, such impact is likely to be negligible given that tariffs are being increased in-line with inflation.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

[TEXT HERE]

Human rights

[TEXT HERE]

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

[TEXT HERE]

Reducing climate change

[TEXT HERE]