



Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs: 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: 1294

Brief description: Proposed tariff increases for 47 Council car parks; changes to car park charging periods, and the potential introduction of charges in some car parks that are currently free. NB: Our parking charges were last increased in April 2016.

Date Completed: 13/11/2023 10:55:54 Version: 1

Completed by: Mike Jones

Responsible Service: Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? All users of Council car parks. Residents, businesses, town centre businesses, visitors, tourism facilities: all users of Council car parks to park their vehicles. Those who are both old enough and able to drive will likely be more affected.

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

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

3 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 27 / 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

Prevention

The proposal does not prevent people using their vehicles but may influence their decision as where to park.

Integration

Continued investment in car parks.

Collaboration

Finance re: proposals and other internal Council departments. Civil Enforcement.

Involvement

No requirement to consult on proposal.

Summary of impact

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

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

Main conclusions

The review of tariffs and car park charges may impact upon people's choice to visit a town however research indicates that this is not the main consideration. Displacement of vehicles may occur into surrounding streets however targeted enforcement will aim to ensure this is not within restricted places. In addition residents permit schemes are available to residents where on street parking by visitors to a town displace residents in predominantly residential areas.

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

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Much political and public resistance to increasing parking charges stems from a fear that this would damage retail or business investment. This fear can be especially acute in towns and cities perceiving that they have economies which are relatively weak compared to neighbours (Marsden et al. 2013). However there is no evidence to support these concerns, except in the case of a city or town competing with out-of-town shopping centres offering free parking (Marsden 2006).

Further actions required

Annual or season permits are available for use in all long stay car parks which offer substantial discount for regular users over daily charges. Our permit costs remained static from 2009 until the start of the current financial year, which is reflected by how inexpensive they are when compared with other North Wales authorities.

We propose to continue to offer our various free parking initiatives. These include free parking after 3pm in all our town centre pay and display car parks from late November until the 31st December every year. The small areas of free, short stay parking that are present in some of our pay and display car parks will also remain. Finally, we will also continue to provide 5 free parking days each year for every City, Town and Village where we operate pay and display car parks. The respective City, Town and Community Councils choose when to use their 5 free days.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Reduction in carbon emissions: Where there is no longer a need to circulate around several different car parks in order to find a space.

Some or all of this travel could be avoided or moved onto more low carbon options (e.g. walking/cycling, public transport).

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

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

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

Annual or season permits are available for use in all long stay car parks which offer substantial discount for regular users over daily charges.

Quality skills for the long term

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

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

N/A

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

N/A

Economic development

Perceived impact on retail and businesses. Reviewing current car parking tariffs and charges may reduce visitors to local towns, however evidence states that footfall is not significantly affected by

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

charges, rather the length of stay. Evening economy could be affected.

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

Care workers utilising car parks?

Childcare

N/A

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Neutral : 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

N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

N/A

Biodiversity in the built environment

N/A

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

N/A

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

Reduction in fuel consumption if people mode shift to alternatives eg. walking, cycling, public transport

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

N/A

Flood risk management

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

N/A

Biodiversity in the built environment

N/A

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

N/A

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

N/A

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

N/A

Flood risk management

N/A

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Reviewing current car parking tariffs and charges may encourage a modal shift in transport. Potentially may result in some users considering more sustainable modes of transport and encourage active travel for short journeys as opposed to making the journey by car.

This indirectly supports the objectives of the Active Travel [Wales] Act 2013 and could assist in reducing carbon emissions.

Further actions required

N/A

Positive impacts identified:

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

Could inspire a mode shift to either walking or cycling to support health and well-being.

Access to good quality, healthy food

N/A

People's emotional and mental well-being

N/A

Access to healthcare

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

N/A

Participation in leisure opportunities

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

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

N/A

Access to good quality, healthy food

N/A

People's emotional and mental well-being

N/A

Access to healthcare

Could discourage people attending appointments eg. doctors/dentist, however many healthcare establishments have their own parking facilities.

Participation in leisure opportunities

Could discourage people participating in leisure opportunities eg. swimming, gym, classes

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Evidence re: socio-economic disadvantage: People on lower incomes in the UK are less likely to

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

own a car (Titheridge et al., 2014) and 19.4% of households in Wales have no access to a car or van (InfoBaseCymru).

Further actions required

Equal charging: The amount we charge in our car parks depends upon the type of car park. Our car parks are designated as "Short Stay", "Long Stay", or "Beach" car parks. The different charges for each car park type are the same irrespective of which town a car park is located in.

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

People aged 60 or over will continue to be able to purchase a concessionary permit which is just over half the cost of a standard Long Stay permit.

Also concessionary free bus pass is available to those over 60.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

N/A

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

People might benefit from improved conditions for walking and cycling, and from improved air quality

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

N/A

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

People with a work-limiting disability are more likely to be experience a pay gap in comparison to those without this type of disability.

Increased parking charges may, therefore, have a greater impact upon people with less disposable income.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

People who are digitally excluded may rely on town centre car parks to access shops

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

Could disadvantage low income car dependent households

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

Relocation of parking to fringe areas can be detrimental.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

Car parks benefit our communities; enabling them to be used over the long-term with safeguards in place for their retention at the community level.

Further actions required

The review of tariffs and car park charges may increase inconsiderate or illegal parking within the surrounding area in the short-term and thus have an increased call for enforcement by the Police to

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

take action for obstruction or dangerous parking.

Displaced vehicles may over the long-term return to the car parks where parking is likely to be easier and more conveniently located.

Additionally, residents parking schemes are available which may prevent this from being an issue.

Local residents can choose to purchase a Long Stay parking permit.

People aged 60 or over will continue to be able to purchase a concessionary permit which is just over half the cost of a standard Long Stay permit.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

Increasing car park tariffs in-line with inflation means that we can continue to be able to invest in our car parks to keep them safe in terms of investing in and maintaining lighting, CCTV, etc.

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

N/A

Connected communities

Car parks benefit our communities; enabling them to be used over the long-term with safeguards in place for their retention at the community level.

Rural resilience

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

Enforcement availability for evening hours

Parking on pavements/illegal parking

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

Charges within an area may create harm at the fringes if people park outside the charging area.

Connected communities

N/A

Rural resilience

Rural areas typically results in greater car dependency may have more of an impact where other travel options are not available.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Welsh Language Standards will be adhered to in the display public notices.

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 - this will be done bilingually.

Further actions required

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 - this will be done bilingually.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

N/A

Promoting the Welsh language

Bilingual signage

Culture and heritage

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

N/A

Promoting the Welsh language

N/A

Culture and heritage

N/A

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Positive overall - no negative impacts identified.

Further actions required

In considering the tariff increase, we've considered the tariffs charged by other North Wales County Councils, and the amount of inflation from 2016 to 2023, including an allowance for "future-proofing" ahead of continuing high levels of inflation.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

Use of local supply chains

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

N/A

Reducing climate change

Support active travel options (leave car at home)

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

N/A

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

N/A

Reducing climate change

Increase in Car Parking Charges/Tariffs

N/A