

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan

Amendments to the Car Parking Strategy

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2017

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This paper provides brief responses to some potentially 'frequently asked questions'. For further information please see the relevant page on the Wiltshire Council Consultation Portal:

<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

1. What is the role of car parking?

While there are a number of aspects to car parking management, in essence a balance needs to be found between three key factors:

Regeneration: using parking measures to support town centre regeneration (e.g. providing more and / or cheaper parking to attract shoppers).

Restraint: using parking controls as a means of restraining / managing traffic (e.g. to reduce congestion) and improving environmental quality (e.g. air pollution), or to encourage the use of sustainable transport modes (e.g. cycling and buses).

Revenue: securing sufficient revenue to cover the costs of providing car parking, and using any surplus revenue to fund other important local services (e.g. subsidising non-commercial but essential local bus services).

The pursuit of one of these factors alone will potentially result in the other two being compromised.

2. Why is the council proposing to increase parking charges?

The council continues to face significant financial challenges as a result of reduced funding from central government and an increasing demand on front line services. To meet these challenges there has been a need to look at all council services and to consider where further efficiencies can be made and / or where there is an opportunity to generate additional income.

The council's Parking Services is also facing significant cost pressures including business rate payments, essential equipment upgrades, maintenance works and inflation costs. The demands on the service from residents, schools, businesses and parish / town councils are also increasing.

Importantly, any surplus revenue from parking charges supports other transport measures including essential local bus services.

Due to the pressures outlined above, it is considered that a number of charging policies and practices in relation to car parking need to be looked at again. To this end, the council has identified a number of possible charging options which are the subject of this public consultation.

3. How much will parking charges increase?

Information on the proposed charging options and the proposed charges is set out in the questionnaire survey and at the bottom of the relevant Wiltshire Council Consultation Portal webpage:

<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

