

Car Parking Charges – Town Council subsidy and amendment request guidelines

Background

In March 2018 Cabinet approved the new car park charging arrangements. It was agreed that Town Councils may consider subsidising car parking charges in their area however each proposal would be considered on merit and deliverability within the current car parking strategy.

The report confirmed that any proposal would be considered within the following limitations:

1. That the overall net income of individual car parks and individual town centre car parks as a whole is not reduced; and
2. That any proposal will meet the principles of the Council's Car Parking Strategy and will promote management of the car parking network to provide available spaces and therefore access to the town centres.

In order to provide some clarity and guidance for Town Councils, the following table provides examples of localised changes to current arrangements which would be considered or rejected within the limitations of this Council policy:

Proposals that might be considered as agreeable flexibilities under the policy (subject to an approvable business case)	Proposals that would not be considered under the policy as they would work against these principles and therefore be a breach of policy
<p>The provision of short periods of free parking to coincide with special events or specific periods during the year with Town Council subsidy for loss of income in full.</p> <p>Changes to charging bands that would not impact on income levels.</p> <p>Reduced banding tariffs supported by a Town Council subsidy whilst maintaining a minimum charge.</p> <p>Increasing the availability of free, short stay on street parking availability - where it is safe and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Increasing charges at specific sites to provide the Town Council with a regular income stream - in line with current strategy</p> <p>Introducing local residents parking schemes in specific areas - in line with the Residents Parking Policy</p>	<p>Any proposals that results in a net reduction in income not fully recovered by a Town Council subsidy.</p> <p>Changes to banding or charging periods that would reduce overall income levels – without Town Council subsidy.</p> <p>Proposals that would provide extended periods of free parking which would be unsustainable, inequitable and confusing to users when the charges were reinstated.</p> <p>Increasing the percentage of annual permits available in individual car parks.</p> <p>Changes to individual car park status i.e. short stay to long stay.</p>

