

Response Statement on Car Park Charges

Issue	Response
<p>Various queries and comments were made on introduction of car parking charges across all Forums during October/ November 2024</p>	<p>Charges apply between 7am and 7pm, starting from £1.20 to £1.80 for an hour depending on whether the car park is classed as long or short stay and its proximity to town centres. (Short stay car parks have a maximum stay of 4 hours). There are no plans to extend the hours that charges apply.</p> <p>Parking charges have applied on the car parks since 1993, the 2 hours free ticket was introduced in 2017; the move to reinstate charges was made following a vote by full council; changes to car park charges are done as part of setting council's fees & charges and does not require public consultation.</p> <p>The parking service had been running at a loss in recent years; it is projected that the current charges will reverse this trend and raise approximately £3.5 million over the next three years.</p> <p>Maintenance of the car parks facilities continues, including both regular scheduled works and bespoke projects; the latest bespoke project, starts on 3rd February on Ryemarket car park and the estimated cost of the works is £104k.</p> <p>The next phases of the parking strategy, which will include a review of on-street parking provision, is due to start soon; that phase will involve public consultation as well as impact assessments.</p>