

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Extension of Pay and Display Charging (Small Scale) - Budget Proposals 24/25

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|------------------------|---|
| Assessment ID | IIA-001639 |
| Lead Author | John Bruce |
| Additional Authors | Lorna Hogg |
| Service Reviewers | Natalie Wood |
| Subject Matter Experts | Suzanne Rhind, Kakuen Mo, Caroline Hastings, Annette Johnston |
| Approved By | Philip McKay |
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

This assessment considers the impact of extending pay and display charging to all standard spaces in car parks which currently have both P&D terminals and free-from-charge spaces.

During screening 3 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Town Centres First

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 5 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 1 have been mitigated and 4 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by philip.mckay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

| | |
|---|-----|
| Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres? | Yes |
| Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics? | No |
| Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council? | Yes |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome? | Yes |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights? | No |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing? | No |

3. Impact Assessments

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Children's Rights and Wellbeing | Not Required |
| Climate Change and Sustainability | Not Required |
| Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty | No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated |
| Health Inequalities | Not Required |
| Town Centre's First | Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated |

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Age (Younger) | | Yes | | |
| Age (Older) | | Yes | | |
| Disability | | Yes | | |
| Race | | Yes | | |
| Religion or Belief | | Yes | | |
| Sex | | Yes | | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | Yes | | |
| Sexual Orientation | | Yes | | |
| Gender Reassignment | | Yes | | |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | | Yes | | |

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Low income | | | Yes | |
| Low wealth | | | Yes | |
| Material deprivation | | Yes | | |
| Area deprivation | | Yes | | |
| Socioeconomic background | | Yes | | |

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

| Impact Area | Details and Mitigation |
|-------------|--|
| Low income | <p>The introduction of parking charges would have a relatively greater impact on the finances of car park users with lower incomes, such as shop assistants.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification It would not be practicable to have a scale of applicable parking charges based on income. The proposal would just bring the charges in these car parks in line with the level of pay and display car parks across Aberdeenshire.</p> |

| Impact Area | Details and Mitigation |
|-------------|--|
| Low wealth | <p>The introduction of parking charges would have a relatively greater impact on the finances of less wealthy car park users. (Lower wealth can be associated at a population level with certain sub-groups of the Protected Groups (Age, Disability, Race, Sex, and Sexual Orientation however the impacts would be common to all with lower income/wealth so these groups are not considered separately for this impact area.)</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification It would not be practicable to have a scale of applicable parking charges based on wealth. The proposal would just bring the charges in these car parks in line with the level of pay and display car parks across Aberdeenshire.</p> |

4.4. Evidence

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|----------------|--------------|---|---|
| Other Evidence | Common sense | Persons with lower income or wealth will have less cash available to pay for car parking charges than those better off. | The introduction of charges has the potential to disproportionately affect those with lower wealth or lower income. |

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

It will be necessary to promote and make a formal Off-Street Car Park Order if these proposals are to be progressed. This process includes a statutory consultation and any unresolved objections would need to be considered by the appropriate council committee.

4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

As part of the formal consultation process notices would be posted in the affected car parks and in local newspapers. Details would be publicised through our social media channels and sent to other representative groups (such as local disability forums and town-centre trader associations where they exist).

4.7. Evidence of engagement

As part of the formal consultation process notices would be posted in the affected car parks and in local newspapers. Details would be publicised through our social media channels and sent to other representative groups (such as local disability forums and town-centre trader associations where they exist).

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

It would not be practicable to have a scale of applicable parking charges based on wealth or income.

Introducing pay and display charges to these car parks would be consistent with our approach in

other similar towns in Aberdeenshire.

5. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

5.1. Local Factors

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Town centre assets | | Yes | | |
| Footfall | | | Yes | |
| Changes to road layouts | | Yes | | |
| Parking | | | Yes | |
| Infrastructure changes | | Yes | | |
| Aesthetics of the town centre | | Yes | | |
| Tourism | | Yes | | |
| Public safety | | Yes | | |
| Town centre business | | | Yes | |
| Cultural heritage and identity | | Yes | | |
| Social and cultural aspects | | Yes | | |

5.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

| Impact Area | Details and Mitigation |
|-------------|---|
| Footfall | <p>A reduction in the number of free spaces in our town centre car parks could potentially see a reduction in town centre footfall with some town-centre shoppers choosing instead to shop at destinations with free parking, such as supermarkets or retail parks.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification -</p> |
| Parking | <p>A reduction in the number of free spaces in town centre car parks could see displacement of long stay parking to on-street spaces.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation If Aberdeenshire Council were to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement it would be better placed to enforce on street parking restrictions.</p> <p>Timescale Potentially 2025 but subject to committee decisions.</p> |

| Impact Area | Details and Mitigation |
|----------------------|--|
| Town centre business | <p>A reduction in the number of free spaces in town centre car parks could potentially see a reduction in town centre footfall and a displacement of custom to destinations with free parking, such as supermarkets or retail parks.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification -</p> |

5.3. Evidence

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| External Data | https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/150610-assessing-impact-car-parking-charges-town-centre-footfall-en.pdf | <p>There is no formal academic research available online that links changes to car parking charges and real-world recordings of footfall or business revenue. Where research has been carried out (e.g. by local political groups), it indicates that car parking charges and economic performance are at best only weakly related. In addition, it also shows that a number of factors are at play in highly complex local systems, particularly the availability of spaces and the convenience of parking in relation to where people want to go.</p> | Available evidence does not conclusively prove a link between parking charges and footfall. |

5.4. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Potential introduction of DPE could help address displacement parking issues but wouldn't mitigate against reduction in footfall or custom if shoppers choose to drive elsewhere to avoid charges.

Introducing pay and display charges to these car parks would be consistent with our approach in other similar towns in Aberdeenshire.

6. Action Plan

| Planned Action | Details |
|---|---|
| Wider review of car parking including chargeable locations and charge levels. | <p>Lead Officer John Bruce</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday April 01, 2024</p> <p>Planned Finish Tuesday December 31, 2024</p> <p>Expected Outcome May lead to a new approach to management of car parking across Aberdeenshire. Will be subject to public consultation and committee approval</p> <p>Resource Implications</p> |