

Statement of Reasons

Gloucestershire On-Street Parking Charge Changes – July 2022

Proposals

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) proposes to amend the way charges for existing on-street pay and display parking can be paid.

Reasons

As a result of introducing upgraded pay and display ticket machines, that are card only and do not accept cash, the number of tariffs offered to customers is being streamlined to enable a lean card payment process.

The reasons for the machine upgrades are due to security and an increasingly ageing estate of machines that are becoming highly unreliable and expensive to maintain resulting in frustration for paying customers.

In late 2021 a number of high profile cash thefts took place involving the removal of considerable sums of money and extensive damage to council ticket machines. Based on advice from Gloucestershire Police accepting cash in pay and display machines encourages crime and is a high risk approach to managing parking payments.

It is proposed that the existing “pay by minute” model is replaced with 15 minute tariff bands, up to the first 2 hours, with a minimum charge. This rationalises the number of tariffs available to a level that is suitable for pay by card machines. By introducing the 15 minute tariff bands the council is also reflecting the tariffs that are currently available in its MiPermit cashless parking payment system synergising tariffs for customers.

Any surplus generated by the operation of the parking service is used firstly in investment in the management of parking and the parking asset, and then for other improvements in traffic management, highway improvements and subsidised and concessionary transport. This is in accordance with the current legislation, the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Parking charges for on-street parking can be varied by notice under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Equality Act 2010

Thorough consideration was given to the equalities duty of the County Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.