

Statement of Reasons

Gloucestershire On-Street and Off-Street Parking Increase in Charges – May 2023

Proposals

Following the 2023/24 budget setting process, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) proposes to amend charges for existing on-street and off-street parking, this includes pay and display and permit charges.

Reasons

The primary reason for charging for parking is to manage the demand and support our transport policy objectives. GCC also needs to cover the costs of running the parking service. As a result of an increase in costs for on-street and off-street parking and also for public transport, the current level of parking charges has been reviewed.

GCC's policy for parking is set out in the Local Transport Plan. Effective management of on-street parking, in conjunction with provision of off-street parking is recognised as making a significant contribution to reducing congestion, whilst supporting access to residents, services and businesses. This approach aims to ensure that the balance between on-street and off-street charging is maintained.

Tariffs for on-street parking need to be set at a level which facilitates local use and any off-street availability and charging regimes; that is at a level which will ensure the effective management of parking provision and use by prioritising access to the local community and promoting a sustainable and vibrant local economy.

For all of the above reasons, the current parking charges are providing less of a disincentive to on-street and off-street parking than when they were last set, thus impacting on our ability to deliver the objectives of GCC's policies. We envisage that the changes in tariffs will encourage people to look at alternatives to parking on-street in town centres. We will provide additional "ThinkTravel" information on GCC's website to further encourage sustainable methods of transport.

In addition, we are proposing to continue with a cashless service, including Apple and Google Pay, allowing users greater flexibility and removing the requirement for change (coins).

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, subsidised bus services and concessionary travel. This is in accordance with the current legislation, the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Parking charges for on-street and off-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.