

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Stage One

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	To amend the Parking Fees and Charges for 2024/25
Summary of relevant legislation:	Parking Services are governed by The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Road Traffic Act 1991, the Traffic Management Act 2004, the Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions Regulations 2022 and the Transport Act 2000.
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's priorities for improvement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services we are proud of Fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all Tackling the climate and ecological emergency A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire Thriving communities with a strong local voice 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Budget Holder:	Emma Jameson
Name of Service/Directorate:	Environment/Place
Name of assessor:	Emma Jameson
Date of assessment:	14/11/2023
Version and release date (if applicable):	1.0

Is this a ?		Is this policy, strategy, function or service ... ?	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

(1) What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	Increased income from parking fees and charges.
Objectives:	To establish suitable and robust parking fees and charges, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect the draft Parking Strategy for 2024-2034 and associated feedback. Continue to positively influence the environmental impact of travel in West Berkshire, and in conjunction with our place-making strategies,

	<p>protect and enhance the economic vitality of our town centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase income.
Outcomes:	Increased income and a fees and charges structure that reflects the draft Parking Strategy.
Benefits:	The additional income generated will continue to secure expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic, sustainable transport systems and provide suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the public highway.

(2) Which groups might be affected and how? Is it positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this?

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Disability	Some positive and negative	<p>Through the national scheme blue badge holders are allowed to park without charge or time limit in otherwise restricted on-street parking environments and allows them to park on yellow lines for up to three hours, unless a loading ban is in place.</p> <p>Free parking will be available in Council car parks for first 3 hours for blue badge holders. Charging applied thereafter. (Currently there is no time limit).</p> <p>50% discounts will be available for blue badge holders on permit costs.</p> <p>These changes reflect the proposals in the draft parking strategy which overall seeks to deliver improved services for disabled users, by seeking to introduce more disabled parking bays where demand exceeds supply and upgrading key car parks to meet the Park Access standard.</p>
Gender Reassignment	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.

Race	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Religion or Belief	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Sex	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Sexual Orientation	None	Whilst parking charges may increase in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.

Further Comments:

If any (additional) adverse impacts in relation to any of the groups listed above should arise from the upcoming public consultation exercise, the service will review this assessment.

(3) Result

Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?

Yes No

Consideration will be given when launching the consultation to producing hardcopies of the questionnaire, so that those without access to IT services, will also still be able to submit comments.

Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?

Yes No

Service users in general may need to pay more if they use the Council's parking services, - although in specific car parks (e.g. Northbrook multi-storey car park), parking charges are being reduced. Blue badge holders will continue to be able to park in Council car parks for free for the first 3 hours but will need to pay thereafter as part of the draft Parking Strategy proposal that users of facilities contribute to the costs of operation.

(4) Identify next steps as appropriate:

EqlA Stage 2 required

Yes No

Owner of EqlA Stage Two:

Timescale for EqlA Stage Two:

Name: Emma Jameson

Date: 14/11/2023