

Herefordshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)

Name of proposal	Parking Review (S15)
Directorate and Service Area	Economy and Place, Technical Services
Saving	£900k
Name of Lead Officer (s)	Chris Jenner, James Hughes, David Hepworth

Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon.

This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

1.1 What is the proposal?

The proposal has 4 main elements:

- 1- Expanding cashless payment options with a view to reducing cash payment options (£100k)
- 2- Increase car parking charges to reflect policy objectives to support alternative forms of transport (£600k)
- 3- Improve efficiency of parking enforcement (£100k)
- 4- Transform and review delivery of parking service to minimise costs (£100k)

Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

All motorists who park in the council's car parks or in on-street locations could be affected.

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

Not applicable.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

A consultation process has been carried out with key stakeholders in regards to the car parking charges.

Consultation may also be required as part of exploring any payment options.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Car parking charges may have an impact on people who have lower incomes.

Disabled motorists who have a blue badge are unlikely to be impacted due to the parking concessions that the badge allows.

A move to reduce cash payment options may have an adverse impact on people who can only use cash.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

There is a need to manage the available parking availability and influence people's behaviour in regards to the mode of transport they choose by way of parking charges.

There is no detrimental impact on disabled drivers as the concession in place remains unchanged for three hours free parking in all council car parks.

The increases in charges have been benchmarked against other comparable local authority car parks to ensure that the charges remain reasonable and value for money for those on low incomes.

Any potential shift towards a cashless operation will be gradual to allow those that cannot be supported during the transition.

Parking enforcement needs to be efficient to ensure drivers comply with the legal regulations that are in place.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

The increase in parking charges and improved cashless options may have a positive impact on the environment if more people choose sustainable modes of transport.

Efficient enforcement may make it easier for disabled blue badge holders to be able to park near to their destination.

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

Not applicable.

Step 4: So what?

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

No change to the proposal but raised awareness around the nine protected characteristics.

4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?

Implement new payment plan process when the Parking Charge Notice (PCN) case reaches its maximum amount, prior to debt registration.

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?

Car parking usage, income and the number of Parking Charge Notices (PCN's) will be monitored in the following 12 months.

Service Director sign-off:

Date: 30 January 2021

Richard Ball
Director of Economy & Place