

Highways & Transport Committee – 3 April 2025 - Responses to questions raised by Committee Members

Agenda Item 5 - Service Budgets 2025/26 (Highways & Transport Committee)

Councillor M Brooks attended as a visiting Councillor and asked the following questions:

Question

Did the £2.27m cover the cost of increased enforcement as a result of the increased operation of the car parks and did it include maintenance of the car parks?

Response

Yes, the expenditure total for car parking did include costs of enforcement and maintenance costs from within the service (circa £40k). Wider maintenance expenditure on the car park estate is out with the parking service budget as it is managed as part of the Corporate Landlord function provided by the Estates and Facilities Management services which report to Economy and Growth committee.

Request

More detail in respect of the £450k increase in parking charges.

Response

The £450k increase in parking charge income is derived from 2 changes to policy:

- a) The introduction of evening and Sunday parking charges = £400k pro rata for 2025/26
- b) The receipt of income from agreements with town and parish councils entering into “compensation” agreements = £50k in 2025/25.

Request

Request for more detail in respect of the £83k allocated to capital schemes, £56k to car park improvements and £27k to digital car parking solutions.

Response

The Car Park Improvement budget is available for minor on-street measures, including introduction of Residents Permit Schemes where these meet the needs of local communities. Guidelines for how the service approaches these is available on the council webpages at

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/car-parks-and-parking/parking-permits/residents-street-permits.aspx#newonstreetparkingscheme>

The Digital Solutions budget is to be used for introduction of a new business management system in parking, which has been procured through a competitive tendering process. The new system supports a number of business-critical functions in parking services including processing of Penalty Charge Notices, plus administration of Permits and Season Tickets. It enables the move from paper to digital permits as part of a service modernisation plan.

Question

Line budget 90 - 720K - Part year effect of strategy charges what does this encompass? Think I saw in a previous document that it related to the car parking in previous “free towns” however surely, they should have been all in place by now?

Response

This entry relates to the part year impact of introducing Pay & Display charges in the formerly “free towns.” The budget effect of this change is spread over 2 financial years. Because these charges started in December 2024, the budget reflects 4 months (2 December to 31 March) of additional income in Financial Year 2024/25 and the remaining 8 months in Financial Year 2025/26.

Councillor L Braithwaite asked the following questions: -

Question

What would be the financial impact on the Highways and Transport budget going forward as result of the exploration to reduce the capacity of Churchill Way and Dukes Street car parks in Macclesfield?

Response

Both car parks are well-used facilities close the Macclesfield town centre. In the most recent 3-month period (Jan-March 25), average monthly receipts for parking charges at Churchill Way car park were £21,946. For the same period, average monthly receipts for parking charges at Duke Street car park were £10,661.

Should any future development of these car parks proceed, the business case will need to take account of these values.

To date, a study has assessed whether or not other car parks have capacity to accommodate any displaced parking. The budget impact of the loss of some or all parking capacity at Churchill Way or Duke Street has not been assessed at this stage.

Question

Was there an expected increase in revenue from penalty charge notices given the extended charging hours?

Response

We would expect a number of PCN's to be issued during the extended hours of Pay and Display parking. However, we do not prepare detailed forecasts of the number of PCNs that may be issued in the future for inclusion in the Councils budget.

Question

Car parking expenditure – was the cost of assessing any surplus car parking provision across the borough included in the expenditure for this financial year?

Response

The service has a budget for its improvement plan, which is expected to include preparation of a new Asset Management Plan for our car parks.