

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 20/01/2025

Title: On-street Charged for Parking Proposals – Aberystwyth Promenade

Purpose of the report: To report responses to the consultation process to proposals to introduce on-street charged for parking proposals along sections of Aberystwyth promenade as requested by members of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:

To enable Scrutiny to review the proposed order and consultation process

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Highways & Environmental Services and Carbon Management - Councillor Keith Henson

Background

Proposals related to proposals put forward pursuant to the introduction of charged for parking along the Promenade in Aberystwyth were presented to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11/07/2024 (*On-street Charged for Parking Proposals – Aberystwyth Promenade - Scrutiny Jul.24*) and Cabinet on 03/09/2024 (*On-street Charged for Parking Proposals – Cabinet Sept.24*).

Cabinet's Decision, under Minute 57, was:

- i. To support the undertaking of a formal consultation process under the *Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (amended)* in relation to the proposals put forward pursuant to the introduction of charged for parking along the Promenade in Aberystwyth.
- ii. That the outcome of the consultation is reported to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet prior to any decision in relation to implementation of the proposal.
- iii. To note the feedback from the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Formal consultation has now been conducted on the proposal.

This included a Formal Consultation stage between 03/10/2024 and 25/10/2024 where the Statutory Consultees noted in Appendix 1 were invited to comment on the proposals.

Following consideration of those responses in relation to the proposals presented, this was then followed by a Public Notice period inviting objections to proposals between 04/12/2024 and 27/12/2024. (*Aberystwyth Seafront Parking Places and Parking Charges Proposal*)

Formal Consultation responses

During the Formal Consultation stage 2 items of correspondence were received within the prescribed period, as follows:

- Aberystwyth Business Club
- Ceredigion Disability Forum

Details of the 2 responses to the Formal Consultation are contained in Appendix 2.

Both the Aberystwyth Business Club and the Disability Forum were in favour of the proposal, but also raised some concerns.

No responses were received from other First Stage consultees.

Public Notice Stage

As part of the Public Notice stage, notices were placed on site at the locations identified within the proposals, and in the Cambrian News.

Paper copies of the proposals and supporting information were also available to view during normal opening hours at Canolfan Alun R Edwards, Queen's Square, Aberystwyth, and full details were also presented on the Council's website.

Details of the Public Notice and supporting information could be found via:

Aberystwyth Seafront Parking Places and Parking Charges Proposal

Objections could be made in writing via email, letter or the online form that was provided specifically for the purpose.

During the Public Notice stage 109 'in time' items of correspondence were received, though one of these was a duplicate.

106 of these being objections and 2 in favour or expressing no objection.

Appendix 3 contains information of all correspondence received during Second Stage consultation with personal information redacted.

Objections or expressions of concern have been categorised as follows:

| Category | Number of objections | Percentage of objections |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Objector identifies as Aberystwyth resident/business | 67 | 63% |
| Feels charging for parking will deter visitors | 55 | 52% |
| Feels charging for parking will have a negative impact on businesses | 43 | 41% |
| Is concerned regarding displacement parking | 31 | 29% |
| Concerns about loss of commuter parking | 23 | 22% |
| Requests residents parking scheme | 20 | 19% |
| Concerns about vulnerable user groups | 20 | 19% |
| Requests mitigation measures (e.g. cheaper parking in pay and displays, additional car parking elsewhere) | 19 | 18% |
| Expresses concerns about inadequate public transport | 18 | 17% |
| Requests wider review of parking in Aberystwyth/wider consultation with businesses and organisations | 6 | 6% |
| Feels that the scheme will lead to increased air pollution (e.g. due to drivers trying to find alternative parking spaces) | 5 | 5% |
| Considers max stay of 4 hours too short | 6 | 6% |

Suggested responses to the grounds for objection noted above are provided in Appendix 4.

None of the objections received raise significant issues that require any amendment to the proposal, or indeed that were not identified by officers during the development of the proposals based on the Committee's request.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

Yes – See Appendix 5

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term:

The proposal is seen as a means of ensuring the availability of parking, including turnover of spaces, in close proximity to many of the assets and attractions available within the retail and tourist areas of Aberystwyth.

Collaboration:

The proposal was the subject of consultation with other stakeholders in order to shape the final proposals put forward for public consultation.

Involvement:

The proposal has been through relevant Scrutiny Committees, as well as the Cabinet process, and was also the subject of public consultation and a further Cabinet resolution before any implementation is considered.

Prevention:

On-street parking is not a preventative service.

Integration:

It is not considered possible to include the integration of the service with activities undertaken by other stakeholders and/or partners.

Recommendation(s): To note the content of the public consultation and to support the package of proposals put forward.

Reasons for decision: N/A

Contact Name: Rhodri Llwyd

Designation: Corporate Lead Officer Highways and Environmental Services

Date of Report: 30 December 2024

Acronyms: N/A