

CALL IN REQUEST

Date of officer key decision/Executive Board minute publication: **19th July 2024**

Delegated decision ref: **D57556** or

Executive Board Minute no: N/A

Decision description: **Car Park Charges Golden Acre, Middleton Park, Roundhay, Otley Chevin and Temple Newsam**

Discussion with Decision Maker:

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In.

Please identify contact and provide detail.

- Director/author of delegated decision report.
 Executive Board Member

Detail of discussion (to include financial implications)

Cllr Norma Harrington met with the Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Spaces to discuss the reasons for calling-in the decision, which included the potential impact on visitor numbers to the parks, the scale of the public opposition to the plans revealed in the consultation, and the potential negative impacts of displaced parking onto surrounding streets.

Cllr Harrington enquired about the financial implications of requesting a Call In and was advised that there were no additional costs of this.

Some costs have already been incurred producing the public consultation surveys.

Reasons for Call In:

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. *Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect for human rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	A presumption in favour of openness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural justice

Explanation

There is concern that the introduction of these charges will discourage visitors to the parks in question, which will have a negative impact on the ambition to promote healthy lifestyles across the city.

1. In terms of consultation we note that the public consultation in autumn/winter 2023/24 revealed overwhelming opposition to the proposals. 80% disagreed with the proposal at Golden Acre and 84% at Otley Chevin. There was also comparable levels of opposition to the proposals for Middleton Park, Roundhay Park and Temple Newsam. Given the scale of public opposition to the plans it raises questions about whether due regard has been paid to the consultation as part of the decision-making process. Furthermore, the feedback about the Middleton Park proposals discussed in the 11th March delegated decision (a background paper to the decision being called in) appears to acknowledge that car park charges could “discourage people visiting and gaining the benefits to health and wellbeing that the park brings.” As a result of that feedback the proposals for that park were modified, yet the proposals for the other parks remain the same. Have the responses to the consultation therefore been consistently applied?
2. There are also concerns around the clarity of the aims and anticipated outcomes of this decision. Likely unintended consequences of the decision may be to dissuade potential visitors from using the parks, as people are put off by having to pay to visit a park where it was previously free to do so. This may be even more of an issue where there is a lack of a good public transport alternative for reaching the parks. Older visitors in particular may be deterred from visiting by the lack of a cash option to pay on site at the parks and simply choose not visit at all.
 Parking may also be displaced onto surrounding streets, causing highways issues. Whilst this is mentioned as a risk in the report, there is insufficient detail as to how this might be mitigated, other than close monitoring and before and after surveys.
 Taken in the round, these outcomes have the potential to work against the desired aim of the proposals, since they may result in reduced visitor numbers to the parks, lower use of the car parks, and unintended negative impacts on the surrounding areas and residents wanting to use the parks. There are therefore questions as to whether the proposals will actually raise the anticipated income in order to undertake the planned improvements.
3. Finally, in respect of an explanation of the options considered, whilst it is noted that the proposals formed part of wider budget discussions, the assumption in this report and the previous reports that charging is the only viable option to improve these car parks seems unduly narrow and there is arguably a lack of detail on what other options may have been considered which may allow for improvements to be made in a way that does not risk deterring visitors to these much valued parks.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

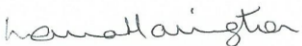
A Call In request may be made by a **minimum** of:

5 non-executive Members of council from the **same political group**;

or;

2 non-executive Members of council if **they are not from the same political group**.

This Call In request should be submitted to Scrutiny Support, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall by 5.00pm by no later than the fifth working day after the decision publication date. The following signatories (**original signatures only**) request that the above decision be called in.

Nominated Signatory 

Print name Councillor Norma Harrington

Political Group Conservative Group


Signature

Print name Councillor Lyn Buckley

Political Group Conservative Group


Signature

Print name Councillor Wayne Dixon

Political Group Social Democratic Party

Signature 

Print name Councillor Mark Dobson

Political Group Garforth and Swillington Independents Group



Signature


Print name Councillor Caroline Anderson

Political Group Conservative Group

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

Signature 
Print name Councillor Wyn Kidger
Political Group Local Independent Party

Signature 
Print name Councillor Sandy Lay
Political Group Liberal Democrat Group

Signature 
Print name Councillor Oliver Newton
Political Group Morley Borough Independents Group

Signature 
Print name Councillor Matthew Robinson
Political Group Conservative Group

Signature.....
Print name
Political Group.....

Signature.....
Print name
Political Group.....

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:

Angela Brogden..... (signature)

Date: 23rd July 2024

Time: 12.15 pm

SSU ref: 2024/25 - 81

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

Call In authorised: Yes

Date checked:

Signed: Angela Brogden

Signatures checked:

Date: 23rd July 2024

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13