

CALL IN REQUEST

Date of officer key decision/Executive Board minute publication: **13/11/2024**

Delegated decision ref: **D57783**

Executive Board Minute no: N/A

Decision description: **Parking charges on district car parks**

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 Harrington held a discussion with the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to discuss concerns and reasons for wanting to call in the decision. These included: the impact of the charges on district economies and local businesses, the potential for displaced parking and highways issues, whether the proposals would raise the funds anticipated, whether an impact assessment has been conducted.

It was confirmed during the discussion that there would be no significant financial implications as a result of the decision being called-in.

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.*

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

Explanation

There are concerns around the clarity of the aims and desired outcomes of this decision. Potential outcomes of the decision may be to discourage visitors from using these district centres, as people are put off by having to pay to park where it was previously free to do so. The lack of a cash option to pay the charges may also deter some users. This would have a negative impact on the local district economy in these areas, affecting the businesses and the vitality of high streets, working against the Council priority to encourage inclusive growth.

The claim at paragraph 14 that the proposals will support local economies by “increasing turnover of spaces in district car parks” seems misconceived, since the greater motivating factor will be to discourage visitors from using the car parks in the first place. Charity shops may also lose customers and workers as a result of the charges, challenging their viability.

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. There are questions as to whether the proposals will actually raise the anticipated income, if visitor numbers decline, meaning the desired outcome of additional revenue may not be achievable. In this way, charging is also disproportionate, since its negative effects (reduced number of visitors) are greater and wider than the income that is hoped to be raised.

There are questions as to whether an impact assessment has been conducted to assess the impact of the charges on the district economies; such an assessment may have revealed a greater risk than the alternatives.

In respect of an explanation of the options considered, the report suggests that leaving the car parks free of charge or introducing limited waiting would be options, but dismisses them as not meeting the budget assumptions. There is insufficient detail on alternative proposals that might have conceivably raised the required funds without risking the deterrence effect that charging produces.

In terms of due consultation, the report notes the huge response rate and opposition to the proposals. The scale of this response shows the very real concerns that local people have about the effect of the proposals, and should not be dismissed, and yet the proposals are moving forward in the face of this opposition.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

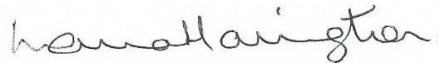
A Call In request may be made by a **minimum** of:

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.



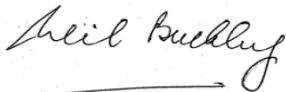
Nominated Signatory
Print name Councillor Norma Harrington
Political Group Conservative Group




Signature
Print name Councillor Caroline Anderson
Political Group Conservative Group



Signature
Print name Councillor Matthew Robinson
Political Group Conservative Group




Signature
Print name Councillor Neil Buckley
Political Group Conservative Group



Signature
Print name Councillor Lyn Buckley
Political Group Conservative Group

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Signature 
Print name Councillor Conrad Hart-Brooke
Political Group Liberal Democrat Group

Signature 
Print name Councillor Mark Dobson
Political Group Garforth and Swillington Independents Group

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Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:

Rebecca Atherton

Date: 13/11/24

Time: 7.30am

SSU ref: 2004/25-83

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status
checked:

Call In authorised: Rebecca Atherton

Date checked:

Signed: Rebecca Atherton

Signatures checked:

Date: 13 November 2024

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13