

Council – 21 February 2024

Liberal Democrats Group Amendment to Budget 2024/25

‘Pay and Display’ Fees and Charges

Summary:

The introduction of parking charges at Thorley Lane would be damaging to businesses in Timperley Village at an already precarious time for our local economy. Residents of Timperley have made their views on these proposals clear; and the council has received an unprecedented number of objections to the introduction of charges.

Timperley Village has suffered a substantial loss of parking spaces over the last 10 years.

Timperley also faces unique challenges, being a short drive from supermarkets with large free carparks in Altrincham and Baguley. Introducing parking charges will deter a huge proportion of customers for whom the inconvenience and cost of paying will simply lead them to make longer car journeys for free supermarket parking.

The introduction of these parking charges is a false economy: the small rise in revenue will be off-set by the loss of business rates when shops are forced to close as footfall tails off.

Timperley has been offered nothing by way of incentive to help people use more ‘Active Travel.’ In the absence of investment on par with other localities in Trafford and taking the vulnerability of its high street, it is unfair to force these charges onto Timperley. Furthermore, statistics show Timperley has a much higher average age than most other parts of the borough, which brings with it a higher proportion of residents with mobility issues; they rely on travel by car.

Therefore this balanced budget amendment removes the need to introduce parking fees at Thorley Lane. A small reduction to the huge increase planned for the council’s Communication Department, offsets the revenue anticipated from Thorley Lane car park. These proposals provide support for a vital village centre in Trafford, simply by reducing what would have been a 37.5% increase in the general Communications budget, to a 29% increase.

Breakdown of proposals:

Table A1: Annex G – 2024 Objective (Service) Budget Analysis (Finance and Systems)

DIRECTORATE	SERVICE EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS	NET BUDGET 2023/24 (£'000)	PROPOSED NET BUDGET 2024/25 (£'000)	MOVEMENT
...
Strategy and Resources	Human Resources	3,175	3,204	29
Strategy and Resources	Access Trafford	0	3,471	3,471
Strategy and Resources	Arts and Culture	0	787	787
Strategy and Resources	Communications	296	407 382	111 86
Strategy and Resources	Executive	383	394	11
...

Table A2: expanded breakdown from Annex G (Communications)

General Ledger Code	2023/24	2024/25	Variance
EMPLOYEES	364,097	474,437 449,437	110,340 85,340
TRANSPORT CONTROLLABLE	50	68	18
SUPPLIES CONTROLLABLE	22,126	22,716	590
RUNNING COSTS	22,176	22,784	608
GROSS EXPENDITURE	386,273	497,221 472,221	110,948 85,948
FEES AND CHARGES	0	0	0
RECHARGES TO A TRADING ACCOUNT	(7,656)	(7,656)	0
RECHARGES TO CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	(80,000)	(80,000)	0
RECHARGES TO GRANT/DSG/EXT INCOME	(3,043)	(3,043)	0
RECHARGES	(90,699)	(90,699)	0
INCOME	(90,699)	(90,699)	0
Total	295,574	406,522 381,522	110,948 85,948

Table A1 is an extract from Annex G of the budget report.

Table A2 is a breakdown of the communications line shown in Table A1.

Table A2 sets out a proposal to create a resource of £25,000 by reducing the uplift in the Communications budget, with all savings coming from unallocated funding under the 'employees' ledger code.

Table B: extract from Agenda Item 2d (Pay and Display fees and charges)

Pay and Display	VAT (V) /Code	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	% change
...
Balmoral Road, Altrincham (small) up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50	0.50	0.0%
Balmoral Road, Altrincham (small) over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%
Atkinson Road, Urmston up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50	0.50	0.0%
Atkinson Road, Urmston over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%
James Street, Sale Moor up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50	0.50	0.0%
James Street, Sale Moor over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%
Greenbank Road, Ashton on Mersey, Sale up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50	0.50	0.0%
Greenbank Road, Ashton on Mersey, Sale over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%
Baker St, Timperley up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50	0.50	0.0%
Baker St, Timperley over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%
Thorley Lane up to 3 hours	V D/D	0.50 FREE	0.50 FREE	0.0% N/A
Thorley Lane over 3 hours	V D/D	1.20	1.20	0.0%

Table B shows the 'Pay and Display' fees currently planned for Thorley Lane car park in Agenda Item 2d. It is anticipated that charges from this site would raise approximately £19,000. Under these proposals, this revenue would be negated by the £25,000 resource created through amendments to communications budget. This would also leave approximately £6,000 for flexibility and in-year movements.