



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	Cabinet: Wednesday 13 October 2021
Report Number	Agenda Item No. 7
Subject	Introduction of Charges at the Public Conveniences at New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton
Ward affected	Chipping Norton
Accountable member	Councillor Norman MacRae Cabinet Member for Environment Email: norman.macrae@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Mrs Maria Wheatley- Parking Services Manager Email: maria.wheatley@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To consider the introduction of charges at the Public Conveniences at the New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton
Annexes	None
Recommendation	That approval be given to the introduction of charging for the use of the New Street Car Park public conveniences, Chipping Norton at a charge of 20p as per all other units as soon is practicably possible to install the equipment.
Corporate priorities	Modern Council Services and Sustainable Finance: Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	Cabinet Member and Senior Officers

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council introduced charges in public conveniences 2004/05. All 12 sites were considered and only one site was excluded at that time. It is not clear why this site was excluded.
- 1.2. The majority of the other 11 sites are accessed from the street straight into the individual cubicle, and are therefore described as direct access. The site at New Street has entrance doors into shared spaces. The male entrance goes into a shared space with handwash basins etc with separate cubicle doors. The female entrance goes into a similar shared space with handwash etc with separate doors to the cubicles.
- 1.3. In 2004/5 when the charge of 10p was introduced it was considered that users would hold the doors open for the next person and there would be little income.
- 1.4. In 2014 the charge was increased to 20p but the site at New Street was not considered at that time.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory function.
- 2.2. The council charges at all other sites including the alternative site in the Town Hall Chipping Norton.
- 2.3. The New Street public conveniences were used 17,169 times during 2019/20 and 19,563 times during 2020/21. It is inequitable for the council to charge for all other sites except this one.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. A quote has been sought to install two charging units at a cost of £3,800 including purchase and installation. There will be an additional cost of £416 per annum to collect and bank the cash. The total costs £4,216 can be met from the existing revenue budget. The annual revenue is estimated to be in the region of £3,200, (assuming a slight drop in usage due to the introduction of the charge).

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no legal implications.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There is a risk that, if the doors are held open for the next person, the income may drop from the estimated annual income.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. This action will not impact any groups, as there is a separate unit for those with a disability which can be accessed free of charge with a RADAR key.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1. Cabinet can decide to keep these facilities free of charge.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1. None