

Report from the Monitoring Officer & Responsible Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer)

At its meeting last night, Tuesday 16 December 2025, the Cabinet received a report entitled "Parking Charges - Implementation of Increase"

The report advised Cabinet that: *"To not increase the charges (continue with the current level of charges) impacts the income received by the Council."*

In this report, Cabinet under their executive function, were advised that:

- If they were to endorse recommendation b) of the published report, this recommendation represents the implementation of a charge change in line with the approved budget and MTFS. Cabinet was advised as the executive, that they had the legal authority to take this decision themselves.
- If the Cabinet were to endorse recommendations c), d) or e) of the published report, then the non-executive aspect of the matter must be referred to Full Council.
- For clarity, it was an executive decision to determine whether to implement the 20p increase. It is a non-executive decision to make the delegation as per recommendation ii) of the supplement. *(This is because it would be not wholly in accordance to the budget as agreed in February 2025)*

At the meeting of Cabinet, Members considered the item, and moved a further alternative to the published options.

The resolution of Cabinet is as follows:

Recommended to Council

- i. To note that the Cabinet determined that the 20p increase as set out in the revenue budget should not be implemented in 2025/26. The detail of the charges will be considered and agreed in 2026/27 and will be considered against an updated Car Parking Strategy;***
- ii. To Delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Finance & Resources) and Section 151 officer in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources to make necessary changes to the Council's Finances, including movements from Reserves, to ensure that a balanced revenue budget position for 2025/26 is maintained.***

A separate supplement has been provided to Full Council which sets out the above and supersedes the published recommendations of the Cabinet and Council reports.

Following the resolution of Cabinet, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Cabinet had made a determination for an option that is contrary or not wholly in accordance to the budget as agreed in February 2025, and as such, that the report must be referred to Council.

The Monitoring Officer also advised Cabinet that she would jointly with the Responsible Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer), circulate a report to all members of the Council. This action is being taken via this supplement to satisfy Section 3 of the Constitution's Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules, as below.

3. DECISIONS OUTSIDE THE BUDGET OR POLICY FRAMEWORK

(a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 (virement), the Executive Leader, the Cabinet, committee of the Cabinet, individual members of the Cabinet and any officers or joint arrangements discharging executive functions may only take decisions which are in line with the budget and policy framework. If any of these bodies or persons wishes to make a decision which is contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget approved by full Council, then that decision may only be taken by the Council, subject to paragraph 4 (urgent decisions outside the budget and policy framework) below.

(b) If the Executive Leader, the Cabinet, committee of the Cabinet, individual members of the Cabinet and any officers or joint arrangements discharging executive functions want to make such a decision, they shall take advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or the Responsible Financial Officer as to whether the decision they want to make would be contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget. If the advice of either of those officers is that the decision would not be in line with the existing budget and/or policy framework, then the decision must be referred by that body or person to the Council for decision, unless the decision is a matter of urgency, in which case the provisions in paragraph 4 (urgent decisions outside the budget and policy framework) shall apply.

Anita O'Malley – Monitoring Officer

Lydia Morrison - Responsible Financial Officer

Wednesday 17 December 2025