

Equality Impact Assessment

For help to complete this form see the *How to Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Gadlys Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708 or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru for further assistance.

The Council's is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the effect any change in policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), has on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has a general duty to ensure fairness and foster good relations. A timely Equality Impact Assessment must be undertaken before making any decision on any relevant change (i.e. which has an effect on people with protected characteristics).

I Details

I.1. What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Parking Fees and Schemes Report 2024

I.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

The proposed changes aim to:

1. Implement approved savings schemes for 2023/24.
 - 1.1 Increase parking fees at Pen y Gwryd
 - 1.2 Increase price of annual parking permit from £140 to £145 and local parking permit from £70 to £75 per annum.
2. Implement savings schemes for 2024/24 that required additional consideration.
 - 2.1 Adjust Band 2 long-stay parking fee structures.
 - 2.2 Extend enforcement hours in short-stay car parks.
3. Increase all parking fees by 40% to meet budget targets.

These changes are necessary to address a significant budget shortfall faced by the Environment Department of Cyngor Gwynedd.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Gerwyn Jones – Assistant Head of Service – Environment Department
Ceri Thomas – Parking and Street Works Manager

1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

Equality issues have been considered as the proposals have been developed. These are included in this assessment prepared in September 2024.

2) Action

2.1 Who are the partners you need to work with to undertake this assessment?

Parking Service
Finance Department
Scrutiny Committee
Local community groups, especially those representing protected characteristics.

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either because of location or because of need) who live with socio-economic disadvantage?

The consultation process and giving notice in the press is part of the procedure and members of the public can submit their comments or objections or give a positive opinion through this statutory process.

It is an essential requirement for the Council to advertise the proposed changes in the local newspapers as well as display the information (including the new fees) in a prominent position in the

car parks that will be affected.

The current disabled parking scheme will remain unchanged.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

Initial feedback from the Council's Scrutiny Committee highlighted concerns over affordability for local and low-income residents.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence are you operating?

Financial reports indicating the budget shortfalls.

Previous parking fee structure reviews.

Fee comparisons with neighbouring Local Authorities.

The pay and display fees have not changed since 2021 even to reflect inflation rates.

It is imperative that we review the fees to ensure that there is sufficient income to meet the financial gap in the Council's budget.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council has to give due regard to the effect any changes will have on people with the equality characteristics noted below. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics? You are welcome to any other characteristics if you wish.

Characteristics	What type of impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	Neutral	Changes to the proposed fee structure is likely to effect Gwynedd residents and visitors alike.
The Welsh language	None	We will continue to ensure that signs and any new software are bilingual.
Disability	Positive	The continuation of Blue Badge exemptions supports accessibility for disabled individuals.
Sex	None	No evidence of impact based on gender.
Age	Positive	It seems that more elderly people tend to be disabled so a higher percentage of older people will not pay for parking.
Sexual orientation	None	No evidence of impact.
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	None	No evidence of impact.
Gender reassignment	None	No evidence of impact.
Pregnancy and maternity	None	No evidence of impact.
Marriage and civil partnership	None	No evidence of impact.

3.2 The Council has a duty under the 2010 Equality Act to contribute positively to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relations in its activities regarding the following characteristics – age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, gender reassignment, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due attention to the way any change affects these duties.

General Duties	Does it have	In what way? What is the evidence?
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of the Equality Act	an impact?*	
Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	<p>It is true to say that families with a disabled person in the family tend to be poorer.</p> <p>As a Council we will continue not to charge disabled people a parking fee so that they can access shopping and other services as usual.</p>
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	<p>An increase in the parking structure can make things more difficult for those on a low income.</p> <p>It must also be highlighted that the Council offers an Annual Parking Ticket. The ticket enables people to park in any long stay car park throughout the County without a time limit. In accordance with this review, there is a recommendation to increase the cost of this ticket from £140 to £145 per year (to meet inflation). Ticket holders who use a car park on a daily basis would pay £12.08 per month, which is equivalent to 40p per day. We remain of the opinion that the ticket continued to offer value for money.</p> <p>This can be a suitable solution for people with low income.</p> <p>We also offer a parking ticket for residents to purchase for £75 per year. We appreciate that the lack of parking spaces outside homes is a problem due to an increase in the number of vehicles. This ticket offers residents parking in the Long Stay car park closest to their home.</p>
Encouraging good relationships	Yes	<p>While keeping the blue badge scheme the same and parking continuing to be free for disabled people, they continue to be able to go out and socialise with the community.</p>

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty and what is the reason for this?

No changes are proposed to the blue badge scheme. Blue badge holders continue to park for free in our car parks and are allowed to park on double yellow lines for a period of up to 3 hours.

While keeping the blue badge scheme the same, they continue to be able to go out and socialise with the community without having to worry about additional costs.

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty and what is the reason for this?

No.

4.3 What should be done?

Choose one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	✓
Adapt the policy to delete any barriers	
Suspend and delete the policy as the detrimental impacts are too big	

Continue with the policy as any detrimental impact can be justified	
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4.4 What steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

4.5 If you are not taking any further action to delete or reduce the negative impacts, explain why here.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

We will continue to monitor the usage of our car parks.