

Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, Welsh and Socio-Economic Disadvantaged

See the *How to Do an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet for help completing the form here. Please also feel free to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equalities Officer on ext. 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact that a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and build good relationships. A timely assessment must therefore be made before making a decision on any relevant change (i.e. which has an impact on people with a protected characteristic).

The Council is also required, under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) to consider the impact that a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on opportunities for people to use Welsh and to ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions protect and promote the use of Welsh.

From April 1st, 2021, the Council has a duty to pay due attention to addressing socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

I) Details

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

The Economy and Community Department intends to establish new management arrangements for the Dinas Dinlle beach car park. As part of these arrangements, it proposes to introduce an Off Street Parking Order including the charging of parking charges on the site

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

During its meeting on 19th February 2019, the Cabinet approved a list saving proposals to address a financial gap in its budget. One of the savings was the principle of establishing parking charges at the Dinas Dinlle beach car park. Detailed proposals had not been prepared, and further details would to be develop prior to implementation.

During 2023/24, Gwynedd Council carried out improvements to the Dinas Dinlle car park including resurfacing, changes to the entrances, marking of parking spaces, landscaping and upgrading of facilities. Following the completion of the physical improvements on-site, it was

decided to arrange an experimental period during August and September 2024 during which parking charges would be introduced. The purpose of the experimental period was to test practical aspects of the site, and provide an opportunity to review and evaluate the temporary arrangements, including a public consultation inviting feedback from local residents and businesses, car park users, statutory organisations and local groups.

The proposal which forms the basis of this assessment involves the introduction of an Off-Street Parking Order on the Dinas Dinlle car park, to incorporate the following aspects :

- Introduce seasonal parking charges payable between times 0900 – 1700 daily between 01 March to 31 October each year
- The structure of parking fees would be as follows:
 - Up to 1 hour : None
 - Up to 2 hours : £2.20
 - Up to 4 hours : £4.20
 - Up to 8 hours : £6.00
 - Season ticket : £30.00
- The Order would also introduce measures for site management by :
 - Protect use of designated spaces for blue badges holders only
 - Vehicles to park within parking bay lines
 - Parking prohibited within the public transport bus layby
 - Prohibit people from staying overnight in vehicles on the site
 - Prohibit parking within 'keep clear' areas or near site entrances

Charging an on-site parking fee would create additional income for the Service, and it is proposed to allocate a percentage for annual maintenance costs, thereby safeguarding the investment and new facilities on site.

The introduction of an Off Street Parking Order would follow a statutory process, including a consultation period with relevant organisations, as well as a public consultation period.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Llyr B. Jones, Assistant Head of Economy and Community

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

May 2025 – Version 1.2 (Assessment following Experimental Period)

2) Operate

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners who will have to work with to make this assessment?

As part of the experimental period arrangements consultations were arranged with Local Members, Llandwrog Community Council, North Wales Police, Health Board, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Royal Mail, Llandwrog Coastguard and Arfon Access Group

A public consultation was also organised during October and November 2024 inviting feedback from local residents and businesses, car park users and the organisations identified above. Copies were available on the Council's website; Siop Gwynedd in Caernarfon and Pwllheli; and at Penygroes and Caernarfon libraries. Letters were sent to nearby residents and businesses, local organisations, and the campaign was promoted in the press and social media.

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

During initial work, discussions have taken place with Local Members, and representatives of Llandwrog Community Council. During 2023, the Maritime Service introduced arrangements to receive feedback and comments from beach users via a QR Code system.

Following the conduct of an experimental period in 2024, a specific questionnaire was prepared for businesses, residents, consumers and local groups. Feedback and comments were invited from the Access Group and members of the Council's Equality Group.

As part of the questionnaire, views were sought on the impact of the improvements to the car park and parking charges on the Welsh language, the opportunities to use it and its status within the community. They were also asked about the impact of the parking fees on people facing socio-economic disadvantage.

2.3 What was the outcome of the engagement?

A copy of the 'Dinas Dinlle Car Park Survey' report (December 2024) is included as an Appendix.

In terms of conclusions, the main findings are as follows:

- 248 responses received (including 4 businesses)
- 43.9% of individuals used the Dinas Dinlle car park at least once a week
- 82.8% of individuals used the car park for longer than one hour

- In terms of experience of using the car park, 19% very good, 25% good, 28% acceptable, 14% poor, 8% very poor with 3% unresponsive.
- 64% thought the parking fees were too high, and 30% thought the level of fees was right.
- From the point of view of site management arrangements, 50% considered that measures for overnight stays in a vehicle should be included; 36% consider that measures against misuse of parking spaces should be included for blue badges; 34% from misuse of 'keep clear' points and entrances; 28% from parking outside the parking bays; and 23% from misuse of the new bus space.
- They were also asked about the impact of parking fees on people facing socio-economic disadvantage, and 64% believed it would have a negative impact on them.

Of the responses received, 22 individuals identified themselves as disabled:

- 27% used the car park more than once a week; 23% once a week; and 50% occasionally. 23% used the car park for a period of up to 1 hour; 45% up to 2 hours; and 18% up to 3 hours.
- 14% reported that the experience of using the site was very good; 23% said the experience was good; and 45% are acceptable. 18% thought the experience was bad.
- 54% considered that measures were needed to control misuse of parking spaces for blue badge holders

The experimentation period is considered to have been very useful in providing operational experience of the arrangements to be presented, offering an opportunity to reflect on the experience in formulating long-term proposals.

2.4 Based on what other evidence are you acting?

The Maritime Service is responsible for managing and overseeing a number of beaches along the Gwynedd coast. A Beach Management Plan has been developed with the aim of providing public and safe access to beaches and coastal resources, for local residents and visitors thereby facilitating activities to support the local economy and contribute to the well-being of our communities.

The Plan recognises 'main beaches' in Abersoch, Morfa Bychan, Tywyn, Aberdaron, Barmouth, Aberdyfi, Criccieth, Pwllheli and Dinas Dinlle. The Maritime Service is responsible for implementing safety measures on these beaches, and appoints seasonal beach wardens for these locations. The provision of car parks is an important part of the infrastructure for these beaches. It is noted that parking charges are payable at the county's main beaches – with Dinas Dinlle being the only exception. The introduction of a parking fee at Dinas Dinlle car park would bring arrangements in line with the other main beaches.

In 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a list of financial savings to meet a funding gap facing the authority at the time. This was discussed with the Community Council at that time, and it was acknowledged that further details would need to be developed, with an opportunity to incorporate improvements to the site.

During this period, the Maritime Service had received complaints and concerns about the condition of the Dinas Dinlle car park. The walls of the site had eroded with stones falling into

the nearby highway. During 2022/23 the Maritime Service introduced arrangements to receive feedback and comments from beach users through a QR Code system. Comments and feedback were received about the car park stating :

- That the condition of the car park and the overall appearance of the beach are poor
- That the surface of the car park is uneven
- Difficulties accessing the beach

During 2023/24, the Council secured a financial package to improve the quality and layout of the Dinas Dinlle beach car park. This included marking parking bays including ones designated for blue badge holders. The Council proposes to establish long-term management arrangements for the car park to protect the investment and facilities provided. The introduction of a parking fee will be an important part of this, as it will provide an annual income, and enable the Council to earmark specific resources for maintenance.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that need to be gathered?

No specific gaps have been identified. An experimental period was held during August/September 2024 during which on-site parking charges were introduced. Further engagement work was organised in October and November 2024 inviting feedback from residents, local businesses, consumers, organisations and local groups.

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must have due regard to the impact any changes will have on people with equality characteristics below. What is the impact will the new policy/service or proposed changes have on people with these features? It is also necessary to consider the impact on socio-economic disadvantage and on the Welsh language.

Characteristics	What's the impact like?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	Negative	Statistics show that some people from an ethnic minority are more likely to be poorer than white British people. That means the introduction of parking fees could have an impact on them. This would not affect people without a car / vehicle. The impact is intended to be mitigated by not charging a parking fee for the first hour.
Disability	Negative	Statistics show that some families with a disabled member are more likely to be poorer than families without a disabled member. That means the introduction of parking fees could have an impact on them. This would not affect people without a car / vehicle; or affect disabled persons with a blue badge due to the spaces provided and will not be charged parking charges. It is noted that not all disabled

		people have a blue badge. The impact is intended to be mitigated by not charging a parking fee for the first hour.
	Positive	Improvements to the car park include designated disabled car spaces, and car park levels are now in line with the ramps to the promenade. Bollards have been installed to guard the ramps from vehicles use and new handrails have been installed. Blue badge holders will not be charged a fee. A new concrete ramp has been installed to the picnic area, and tables for wheelchair users have been installed, and it possible that more people with disabilities will be able to use the facilities.
Sex	Negative	Statistics show that women are more likely to be poorer – particularly women that are single parents. This means that introduction of parking fees could have an effect. The impact is intended to be mitigated by not charging a parking fee for the first hour.
Age	Negative	Statistics show that families with small children are more likely to be poorer. That means the introduction of a fee can have an impact on them. This would not affect families who do not have a car/vehicle. The impact is intended to be mitigated by not charging a parking fee for the first hour.
	Positive	Improved parking and security procedural, and more suitable facilities. Car park levels are now in line with the ramps, and new handrails have been installed.
Sexual orientation	None	No impact has been identified
Religion or belief (or lack thereof)	None	No impact has been identified
Reassignment	None	No impact has been identified
Pregnancy and maternity	None	No impact has been identified
Marriage and civil partnership	None	No impact has been identified
Welsh language	Neutral	Improve local facilities. Consider local businesses that may be affected.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative	The introduction of parking fees is likely to affect socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. The impact is intended to be mitigated by not charging a parking fee for the first hour. It would not affect those who do not have a car/vehicle.
	Positive	Improve the provision and facilities of the area while promoting leisure opportunities and promoting well-being.

3.2 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relationships in its activities in the areas of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability, pregnancy, and maternity. The Council must have due regard to how any change affects these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Get rid of unlawful discrimination, harassment and persecution	No	No impact identified
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	<p>As shown above, it is possible that the introduction of parking fees could affect those with equality characteristics who are more likely to be poorer.</p> <p>Improvements to the car park offer facilities that are more suitable giving blue badge users specific provisions and thus promoting the same opportunities to use the car park.</p>
Building good relationships	Yes	<p>As shown above, it is possible that the introduction of parking fees could affect those with equality characteristics who are more likely to be poorer.</p> <p>Improvements to the car park offer facilities that are more suitable. The development of a management plan (and parking fees) will strengthen management for the benefit and safety of users; and provides an income stream for future facility maintenance. The car park and adjoining beach area are used by a range of different users, and improved facilities and management could lead to building good relationships between those with different characteristics (e.g. older people, young people and people with disabilities using the area in a safe manner).</p>

3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Mesur y Gymraeg (Wales) 2011), to ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English, and that every opportunity is taken to promote the Welsh

language (beyond bilingual service delivery) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

The work that will result from the intention will not have a direct positive impact on the Welsh language due to the nature of the work, however, it will be a core focus of the element of communication. The strategy will be implemented bilingually with all associated documents available in both Welsh and English. Pay machines operating in Welsh, and ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English.

3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice to positively impact people's opportunities to use Welsh, and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects the policy/practice may have on the Welsh language?

Implementing a trial period will enable the Council to consider the pattern of use of the car park for formulating a long-term management package. We will also consult further and invite comments from users. Any measures or changes can be considered when evaluating the experiment phase. Ensure that any public meetings or consultation documents are provided in Welsh.

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have given due attention to the need to address disparity from the cause of socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this is about closing inequality gaps rather than just improving outcomes for everyone).

Following the experimental period in 2024, specific measures have been incorporated into the proposed arrangements which include

- Dedicated disabled parking spaces are designated within the car park. Parking charges will not be charged on Blue Badge Vehicles
- Short-term users will not have to pay, as a parking fee will not be payable for the first hour
- A local ticket / season ticket is planned at a reasonable price

3.6 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice to show that you have due regard to the need to reduce unequal outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act?

No additional measures have been identified. The Service will monitor the management arrangements for the site in order to respond to matters that may arise.

3.7 How this proposal meets the requirements of the Generational Well-being Act A future by implementing the five ways of working, and responding to the seven national wellbeing goals including creating a More Equal Wales?

(Please provide a summary of your findings if you have already considered this as part of the screening process)

- Measures that would provide and protect facilities for the long term
- By charging parking fees it will be possible to take action to maintain facilities and prevent problems such as lack of maintenance
- Providing facilities that are in proportion to Gwynedd Council's well-being objectives
- Collaboration with local organisations and groups
- We will also consult further and invite comments from users. Any measures or changes can be considered when evaluating the experiment phase.

3.8 In order to comply with the Armed Forces act 2022, what is the impact of this proposal on those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, along with their families, in terms of housing and education services?

No impact identified

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

The above identifies advantages arising from the proposal including provision of parking bays for blue badge holders, new or upgraded facilities and improved management of the site.

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

It is possible that the scheme could have an impact on those who are poorer (e.g. families with disabled people, some people from an ethnic minority), but not those without a vehicle. The extent of the impact is dependent on the level of parking fees, and the period(s) of the year in which parking fees would be in effect.

The results of the experiment phase and the comments / feedback from the engagement will be evaluated. This information will be used for formulating long-term proposals for the car park.

4.3 What should be done?

Choose one of the following:

Continue with policy / service as it is sound	Yes
Modify the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and remove the policy as the harmful effects are too great	
Continue the policy because any adverse effect is justified	

No further action at this time, it is premature to decide, or there's not enough evidence	

4.4 If continuing with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

The Council could ascertain the extent of parking enforcement that is required, and also the frequency of the use of the parking places and the amount of parking income generated. The Council then would be able to determine how much average parking income would be generated during specified periods.

In an effort to mitigate any negative effects, up to 1 hours will be free of charge.

4.5 If you do not act further to eliminate or reduce negative effects, please explain why here.

Not applicable

5) Monitor

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

While parking fees are already in place at other Gwynedd main beach car parks, arrangements for monitoring the experiment phase will include

- We will invite comments / feedback from users
- Maritime Service officers visit the site regularly (a Beach Warden is also based at Dinas Dinlle beach
- The Maritime Service will undertake a review of the trial period, analysing results and comments / feedback submitted