



Meeting Date: 3rd January 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Nigel Christian**

CAR PARKING – FREE WEEKEND PARKING

Members will recall that the Council introduced a parking offer this year providing free parking at weekends and Bank Holidays, and reduced parking mid-week for the first hour. Officers have recently carried out a survey of customers with almost 500 responses, with results as follows:

- Awareness was very high - 82% of respondents confirmed they were aware of the free parking offer at weekends and Bank Holidays
- Awareness was also very high, with 88% of respondents aware of the range of options for paying for car parking (cash / card / contactless / app)
- Almost three quarters (71%) of respondents confirmed that they had visited the city centre to go shopping
- Two thirds (66%) believed that the free parking offer was a good initiative to encourage people to the City Centre, with 40% stating that the free parking offer had influenced their reason to visit Carlisle
- Over half of the respondents had stated that they had spent more money or more time in the city centre as a result.
 - 34% - more time and more money spent
 - 21% - more time spent.

Total responses: 480

As is tradition at this time of year, to further support the city centre retail and leisure sector, free parking is available from 3.00 p.m. in city centre car parks on Thursdays throughout December.

SANDS CAR PARK

Advanced work within The Sands Car Park has been carried out following the opening of the Sands Centre. This has included improving signs and lines and reopening the original entrance to the car park. Cycle stands have also been positioned in front of the Leisure Centre. Further resurfacing work will be planned for next year.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FLY-TIPPING CAMPAIGN

The Council will be repeating its successful fly-tipping campaign focussed on our local recycling sites (bring-sites) with clear messages and signage in place to prevent the illegal dumping of rubbish at these sites over the festive period. As in previous years, we will have CCTV cameras operating at some sites and enforcement action will be taken against those responsible for fly-tipping and littering offences.

TRANSITION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Council is currently in the process of procuring a further seven electric vehicles to replace seven diesel vehicles in our fleet. This will support our carbon reduction targets. Once ordered and delivered this will see the number of electric vehicles in our fleet more than double in number from 6 currently to 13, equating to approximately 13% of our fleet. We recognise more is needed to accelerate this transition, but the Council is taking sensible steps to introduce electric vehicles alternatives through our 'Fleet Challenge' to ensure that suitable vehicle alternatives are available and there is a robust business case to support the transition. In this regard, we are focussing our efforts on our smaller vehicles (cars and smaller vans) where there are proven alternatives.

CUMBRIA EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Cumbria-wide initiative to increase residents' access to public EV charging points has moved forward, with the identification of a further round of locations for potential installations. Aided by precise locations (as defined by What3Words) the district network operator, Electricity North West Limited, will now carry out an evaluation to determine the feasibility and cost of connecting these sites to the nearest suitable electricity supply.

Meanwhile Cumbria County Council, on behalf of the Cumbria EV Partnership, is making an application for ORCS grant funding (On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme) to support the installation of chargepoints in residential locations. Some will utilise existing street lighting columns to provide the connection, others will use public car parks close to people's homes where an existing electricity supply allows for low-cost installation. The partnership is looking for a commercial partner to provide the infrastructure – hardware and software – in a 'commissioning model' of delivering the service and making the choice of an electric vehicle more realistic for those residents without access to a private driveway for purposes of recharging their car.

CLIMATE CHANGE

A Cumberland Council Climate workshop was held on 29th November. This workshop considered key themes for the development of a Cumberland Climate Change Strategy

and looked at good practice and learning from sovereign Councils in the Cumberland area and their key partners. An Officer from the City Council attended this workshop and is fully engaged with the work of the LGR climate workstream, which is meeting on a regular basis.