

**ADDENDUM TO REPORT CS09/22 CAR PARKING: OPTIONS TO SUPPORT
HIGH STREET RECOVERY**

This addendum provides the feedback from the consultation on the proposed changes to car park charges as set out in the attached appendix.

6.0 Feedback from Consultation

6.1 As mentioned above, the Council is required to consult with interested parties on proposals to significantly vary the charging structure for its car parks. The period of consultation was initiated after the meeting of Council on Tuesday 01 February 2022 and ran for 14 days (02 – 16 February 2022). Feedback from the consultation was not available at the time of writing but will be available for consideration by Executive at its meeting on 21 February 2022.

1.0 Consultation on changes

1.1 A period of consultation on the changes was initiated on Wednesday 02 February 2022 with letters sent to interested parties, including:

- Carlisle Ambassadors
- Carlisle Car Parking
- Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
- Cumbria County Council
- Disability Association Carlisle & Eden
- Excel Parking Services Limited
- Federation of Small Businesses
- GMB
- Smart Parking Limited
- Stagecoach (Cumbria & N. Lancs)
- The Lanes Shopping Centre
- Unison
- Unite

1.2 The consultation closed on Wednesday 16 February 2022 with just two responses received as shown below.

2.0 Responses received:

2.1 Received from the Managing Director, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce:

...these appear to us to be sensible moves which should encourage use of the city centre.

2.2 Received from the Managing Director, Stagecoach (Cumbria & N.Lancs):

...Whilst I acknowledge the need to encourage shoppers and leisure traffic back into the City, it is with grave concern that parking would be reduced to just £1.00 on weekdays and free at weekends, which will impact on traffic levels within an already congested City road network, as well as impacting on bus patronage.

Bus patronage is a long way from recovering to pre-pandemic levels, and the option of free parking at weekends is likely to further hamper that recovery.

Undertaking this measure in isolation, which will clearly have a loss of revenue to the City Council, is potentially being implemented without balance for other modes. In a time when we should be striving to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality, encouraging more car usage into the City seems to be a step in the wrong direction.

If the City Council is prepared to subsidise free car parking, would it therefore consider subsidising bus travel at weekends in the City too, a far more environmentally friendly way of encouraging footfall into the City and ensuring traffic congestion does not increase.

It is unfortunate that the County Council chooses not to support growth of bus services and routes, making sustainable bus services hard to achieve in the County as it is, the free car parking measure will simply add to our ability to run sustainable buses within the City.

Again, encouraging increased footfall into the City I support, but bus is a vital service for thousands of City residents, and anything that undermines the recovery of patronage, will not be well received, and further erode the ability to maintain routes into the future.

I would be more than happy to work with the City Council on a subsidised weekend fares offer and or advertising to encourage bus use and get customer numbers quickly back to pre-pandemic levels.