

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
18th October 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Pete Roberts

The consultation earlier this year into charging for the use of disabled spaces in council car parks has caused a significant level of distress and uncertainty for many users. Whilst I appreciate the welcome extension of the consultation it has now been over a month since it closed and there remains significant concerns about the plans the council now has on the issue.

Can I therefore ask the portfolio holder:

- 1. How many responses he received to the Blue Badge Consultation from affected groups and existing badge holders and is he confident that the consultation did reach the right people, i.e. those most affected?**
- 2. What level of support each of the options received and when he will be bringing forward formal proposals to Cabinet as a result of this consultation or will he be abandoning his plans to charge blue badge holders?**

Response

1. Responses to the survey were received from 476 people who either have a blue badge or support someone with a blue badge. In market research terms and given the number of valid blue badges issued to residents of Powys, a response from 370 people would have provided a statistically reliable sample as that provides a confidence level of 95%. This means we are at least 95% sure the views of those responses do reflect those of the wider population of blue badge holders.

A detailed report into the consultation findings will be published along with the decision paper. This report and an Impact Assessment will be considered as part of the decision at the time it being made.

2. The table below shows the way all respondents to the consultation supported each option presented. Those responding were asked to rank the options in order of preference.

A Portfolio Holder decision paper is currently being prepared and once completed I will consider the report with the survey results and Impact assessment. A balanced decision which will be best for this Authority will then be made.

Answer	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th
Blue badge holders pay the same amount as anyone else and no concession applies	46	65	53	383
Blue badge holders who park in a disabled bay park for free. Those who cannot find a bay will have to pay to park with no additional concession. (first come, first serve basis)	25	205	265	55
Blue badge holders pay towards parking but get an extra hour free on top of the time chosen	86	253	206	14
Blue badge holders continue to park for free. The £100k saving is found elsewhere.	442	30	24	91