

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.

This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit, incorporates a range of legislative requirements that support effective decision making and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation. **Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as “Draft” and retained for completeness. However, only the final version will be made publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 7 years.**

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Service Area	HTR	Head of Service	Adrian Jervis	Director	Nigel Brinn	Portfolio Holder	Phyl Davies
Proposal	blue badge concession review						
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal							

The council's car parks provide significant income to the Highways Service and is generated from Pay & Display, permits (residential / seasonal) and penalty charge notices (off & on Street).

The provision for a saving or increased net income £100k from reducing the concession afforded to blue badge holders has been identified for the 2018/19 financial year. The scope of the project is to explore, review and assess how this can be achieved within the car parking service.

One suggestion is to introduce pay and display charges for blue badge holders to park in council owned car parks. This suggestion would harmonise blue badge holders with other car park users, including low income families and people on benefits who receive no financial concession for parking.

In the 3 years from April 2015 there were 10,412 successful applications for a blue badge in Powys. A blue badge is valid for a 3 year period, the holder must then reapply.

By not charging blue badge holders to park in its car parks, the council are not recovering their full potential income. By allowing blue badge holders to park for an unlimited time for free the turnover of spaces is not encouraged which can be an issue in highly populated short stay car parks. To date the council have in excess of 3800 parking bays within its car parks. 321 of these are within short stay car parks. The authority currently has 153 disable bays throughout the county which equates to 4% of the total number of bays. The nationally recommended figure is 6%.

The Blue Badge Scheme is a national arrangement that gives parking concessions to people with severe walking difficulties, whether they're drivers or passengers. This helps the person with the badge to lead a normal life by making it easier to get out and about. The blue badge is designed to allow holders to park closer to the facility which they are visiting, usually within designated bays or on waiting restrictions whereby they would not cause a danger or obstruction. The blue badge does not provide a right to park for free where charges are made since this is at the discretion of the local authority.

Benchmarking has been undertaken against other local authorities regarding the charging of blue badge holders. The benchmarking exercise found that Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, amongst others, charge blue badge holders but allow an additional hour on top of their paid tariff as a concession. This is what Powys County Council initially proposed to introduce.

A consultation exercise was undertaken during May-July 2018 on the proposal and following feedback, informal Cabinet recommended the proposal be altered to allowing the first 3 hours free for blue badge holders.

1. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Tony Caine	Traffic and travel manager	16/11/2018

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
	£50k				

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	Consultation undertaken end of May to mid-July 2018

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4. Impact on Other Service Areas

Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Including implication for Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting)
PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY

It is not expected that the proposal will affect other services areas of the Council.

5. How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
The Economy We will develop a vibrant economy	The introduction of charges may reduce visitors who are blue badge holders to local towns. During audits of car parks 15% of car park users were found to be blue badge holders.	Poor	Post implementation car park audits will be undertaken to see if there is a decrease in blue badge holders using the car parks. Other authorities currently charge blue badge holders but allow only an additional hour on top of their paid tariff as a concession. Therefore it is common practice in other areas and over time it is expected any initial migration of blue badge holders may reduce.	Neutral
Health and Care We will lead the way in effective, integrated rural health and care	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Learning and skills We will strengthen learning and skills	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

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Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Residents and Communities We will support our residents and communities	This proposal has the potential to significantly impact on the ability of people with a disability and in receipt of a blue badge to access their communities and lead a fulfilled live	Poor	Subsidy will be provided by providing the first 3 hours free. A review of the accessibility of pay meters will be undertaken and where by these are not deemed to be accessible and no other means of payment is available then the Council will not implement the charge until remedial work has been undertaken to ensure the pay meters are accessible.	Neutral

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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

Surveys of existing use by blue badge holders
 Benchmarking other Welsh Authorities and neighbouring English Authorities on current practice on blue badge concessions was undertaken.

6. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
A healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	If a blue badge holder has low income and uses the car park to attend a social clubs or other session, they may not be able to afford the car parking prices and therefore may not attend. This could have a significant impact on peoples wellbeing and potentially cause isolation. This in turn could have further impact on other Council budgets such as ASC.	Poor	People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking People with disabilities can apply for a free bus pass entitling them to free public transport within the county. Community transport may also be available. Fully accessible public transport can provide an alternative to using a private motorcar.	Neutral

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<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>If this leads to isolation people may not feel part of the local communities</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking. People with disabilities can apply for a free bus pass entitling them to free public transport within the county. Community transport may also be available. Fully accessible public transport can provide an alternative to using a private motorcar.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>A small possibility that blue badge holders may no longer use the car parks and town shops due to having to pay. If a blue badge holder has low income and uses the car park to attend a social club or shop, they may not be able to afford the car parking prices and therefore may not attend the club or utilise the shop.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking. People with disabilities can apply for a free bus pass entitling them to free public transport within the county. Community transport may also be available. Fully accessible public transport can provide an alternative to using a private motorcar.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				
<p><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<p>No real impact - the service would continue as before.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Service would remain the same</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>				

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Age	All age groups will be effected as any aged person could hold a blue badge. However it is known that the majority of blue badges are held by an older person. With an aging population, if charges are not introduced, the Council potentially could lose more income in the future as there is likely to be more blue badge holders.	Poor	<p>People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking.</p> <p>People with disabilities can apply for a free bus pass entitling them to free public transport within the county. Community transport may also be available. Fully accessible public transport can provide an alternative to using a private motorcar.</p>	Neutral
Disability	The introduction of car park charges for blue badge will mean they no longer qualify for free parking and this may lead to them electing not to visit a town.	Choose an item.	<p>People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking.</p> <p>People with disabilities can apply for a free bus pass entitling them to free public transport within the county. Community transport may also be available. Fully accessible public transport can provide an alternative to using a private motorcar.</p>	Neutral
Gender reassignment	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Race	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Religion or belief	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Sex	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Sexual Orientation	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

Benchmarking other Welsh Authorities and neighbouring English Authorities on current practice on blue badge concessions was undertaken.

7. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
Long Term: <i>Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>	Short term budget need to be balanced otherwise this will have a knock on effect long term. It is known that the majority of blue badges are held by an older person. With an aging population, the Council potentially could lose more income in the future as there is likely to be more blue badge holders.	Good	People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking on top of their paid tariff.	Neutral
Collaboration: <i>Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</i>	A full consultation has been carried out. The feedback from this will be collated and form part of the closing consultation report and recommendation moving forward.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i>	The currently free parking may be assisting keeping people to be independent in accessing the community and may be preventing the need for more costly statutory input from the council.	Poor	Community transport scheme and maximising income from welfare benefit checks may assist in keeping people to be independent	Neutral
Integration: <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Preventing Poverty: Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.	Blue badge holders may have a low income and cannot afford the charges	Poor	People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking. Advertisement will be carried out and a communication plan created.	Neutral
Unpaid Carers: Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Impact on Powys County Council Workforce	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				
Benchmarking other Welsh Authorities and neighbouring English Authorities on current practice on blue badge concessions was undertaken.				

8. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Severity of Impact on Communities	Scale of impact	Overall Impact
Low	Low	Low
Mitigation		

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People with blue badges will be given three hours free parking. Results of the consultation highlighted most blue badge holders use off street car parks for up to 3 hours and therefore they will still benefit from free parking.

9. How likely are you to successfully implement the proposed change?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Medium	Low	Low
Mitigation		
<p>A review of the accessibility of pay meters will be under taken and where by these are not deemed to be accessible then the Council will not implement the charge until remedial work has been undertaken to ensure the pay meters are accessible.</p> <p>A review on the provision of the number of disabled spaces will be undertaken and improved upon with the aim of reaching the national guideline of 6% of the spaces.</p>		

Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
Increase of parking on double yellow lines – Blue badge holders can park on double yellow lines for a maximum of 3 hours which may give rise to safety concerns or affect free flow of traffic	Medium	Civil Enforcement Officers to patrol yellow lines and enforce when required. The Police are the enforcing authority for dangerous or obstructive parking and can take appropriate action.	Low
High level of complaints about the introduction of charges from blue badge holders and businesses	Low	Implement a communication strategy to minimise complaints	Low
Accessing services – badge holders may not be able to afford the parking fees and therefore may not be able to access certain council services	Low	People with blue badges will be given an hours free parking on top of their paid tariff.	Low
Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
			✓

10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:

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The reduction of the concession for blue badge holders may lead to isolation from communities by a section of blue badge holders who may be unable to afford to pay for parking. However, in mitigation, three hours parking will be provided on top of the paid for time when a blue badge is displayed. The issue of blue badges are not means tested and whilst a proportion of holders may rely upon benefits, parking charges are not waived for non-blue badge holder who similarly rely upon benefits.

11. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Car park audits of blue badge usage – this showed 15% of car park users are blue badge holders who currently utilise council owned car parks for free. Other local authorities currently charge blue badge holders but allow an additional hour on top of their paid tariff as a concession, a number of other authorities do not offer any concession to blue badge holders or offer alternative concessions. Hereford Council currently offer the same proposed 3 hours free to badge holders.

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?

Car park audits of blue badge holder usage
 Monitor car park income
 Monitor the number of Penalty Charge Notices contested by blue badge holders
 Monitor whether there is an increase yellow line parking

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

12 months post approval.

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Tony Caine		16/11/2018
Head of Service:	Adrian Jervis		
Director:	Nigel Brinn		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Phyl Davies		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Portfolio Holder	Date required	December 2018
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FORM ENDS