



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 6 November 2024

Wards affected: Hinckley mainly (some car parks are operated in rural areas)

---

### Hinckley Car Parks Study and Action Plan

---

Report of Director Corporate and Street Scene Services

#### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To advise Executive of the car parks study undertaken in 2023 and seek agreement to the car parks action plan 2024-2028

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 Executive note the Car Parks Study 2023 and that this will be included within the local plan evidence base

2.2 Executive Briefing agree the study and action plan are shared with the Town Centre Partnership for comment (see 10.2)

2.3 Subject to 2.2 the action plan will be returned to Executive to agree the Car Parks action plan 2024 – 2028.

2.4 Executive note that this study and action plan will feed into the local plan (see 10.1)

#### **3. Background to the report**

3.1 The 2017 Car Parks study was updated in 2023 using UKSPF funding. The study concentrates on off street parking and re-examined parking demand in light of new developments and changes since the Covid 19 pandemic. See appendix 1.

### 3.2 Key findings include:-

- Car park charges are lower than those in Nuneaton and Loughborough
- Car parking demand does not exceed supply on average but demand for long stay car parking in particular has decreased.
- Almost all short stay car parks and all long stay car parks are generating less revenue in 2021/22 than in 2015/16.
- Parking levels and revenues, and footfall levels are rising year on year after the covid 19 pandemic. 2023/24 income now exceeds 2015/16.
- The privately operated crescent car park occupancy has also dropped reflecting a wider trend of decreased car parking across Hinckley.

### 3.3 The study recommends

- Improvements to the appearance of some car parks,
- Potential redesignation of some long stay car parks to short stay
- Ev charge point provision
- Potential scope to increase car park charges
- Monitoring of the free parking initiatives

### 3.4 A Car Parks Action Plan 2024-2028 has been developed (see appendix 2) to ensure the recommendations from this study are implemented. The action plan has 6 key aims, the headline actions for each being:-

- Aim 1: Improve the appearance, safety and usability of car parks. A car park by car park plan will be developed and implemented.
- Aim 2: Support the councils climate change and biodiversity agenda. Increased wildflowers and trees, covered cycle parking and adjustments for higher summer temperatures.
- Aim 3: Ensure car parks are fully utilised and classification meets demand. A watching brief with options to increase short stay spaces if required, and potentially to increase residents permits on underutilised long stay car parks.
- Aim 4: support town centre regeneration projects. The Haz improvements to Church Walk are already complete and the way marking strategy has commenced. On going support for other development proposals eg Hinckley Museum, NHS diagnostic centre etc.
- Aim 5: Greener travel. Engage with the Leicestershire County Council Electric vehicle strategy and increase charge points as demand increases including new EV charge points on the Leisure Centre car park.
- Aim 6: Pricing and car park incentives. Monitoring of free parking offers, charges and introduction of national parking app (when fully developed)
- Aim 7: review rural car parks. Review utilisation and costs, identify improvements , and develop a long term plan for these car parks.

## 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

### 4.1 Open Session

## 5. Financial implications [AA]

5.1 Budgets for Car Parks are monitored monthly and presented quarterly to this committee. Improvements will be funded by 2024/25 existing budgets and any changes to it have to be approved in line with financial procedure rules.

## 6. Legal implications [JS]

6.1 Any amendments to car parking orders will need to follow the statutory procedures and ultimately be agreed by Full Council.

## 7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 Car parks support the Corporate Plan aims for places (town centre) places (shaping development), and prosperity (enhancing town centres). The action plan reflects these key themes / aims.

## 8. Consultation

8.1 The study and action plan will be incorporated into the local plan adoption processes by the planning policy team. See 10.1

8.2 Following agreement from Executive Briefing the study and action plan will be shared at an appropriate Town Centre Partnership meeting for comment. Subject to their comments, if necessary the action plan will be updated before being presented to Executive for adoption.

8.3 Any changes to the Parking Places order require consultation and these processes would be followed at the appropriate time.

## 9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

### Management of significant (Net Red) risks

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to adjust car parks structures to meet demand (eg long / short stay)	Ongoing monitoring and recommendations for adjustments as required	Lisa Rees
Failure to invest in car parks / improve amenity and usability resulting in detriment to town centre visitor experience	Car park plan to be developed and implemented.	Lisa Rees

Opportunity to general increased revenue as demand increases for parking	Monitor charges, free parking offers and make appropriate recommendations to Executive as appropriate	Lisa Rees
--	---	-----------

## 10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The emerging local plan will reflect the findings of the car parks study and will put forward policy to support the study and action plan later in 2024.
- 10.2 Parishes will be engaged as appropriate as part of the rural car parks review.
- 10.3 The action plan includes an action to provide blue badge holder accessible EV charging points, and as part of the usability aim car park bays (including blue badge holder bays) will be changed to meet national standards as opportunities arise.

## 11. Climate implications

- 11.1 Aim 2 and Aim 6 support the climate change agenda and the action plan includes measures such as increased biodiversity, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and covered cycle parking.
- 11.2 Mitigation of climate change impacts is also included. For example tree planting to increase shading and consideration of tarmac specifications and rain gardens.

## 12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications
  - Environmental implications
  - ICT implications
  - Asset management implications
  - Procurement implications
  - Human resources implications
  - Planning implications
  - Data protection implications
  - Voluntary sector

---

Background papers: Appendix 1: Car Parking Assessment of Hinckley Town Centre  
Appendix 2: Car Parks Action plan 2024 - 2028

Contact officer: Caroline Roffey x5782, Lisa Rees X 5971  
Executive member: Councillor S Bray