
CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
Parking Fees and Charges

Economic Development, Transport, and Climate
Emergency Scrutiny Commission – 23 April 2025
COUNCIL – TBD

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Jacob Mann
- Author contact details: Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 25 March 2025 relating to increasing parking charges has been the subject of a 6-member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The procedure rules state that a scrutiny committee or any five councillors may request formally that the decision be called-in for a further review by giving notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer within five working days of the decision.

The seven Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Porter (Mover), Councillor Rae Bhatia (Seconder), Councillor Kitterick, Councillor Kennedy-Lount, Councillor Haq, and Councillor Westley

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the City Mayor's decision, and thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the City Mayor. (The original decision will still stand, unless the City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The decision was not considered with a scrutiny commission prior to the decision being made.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The Executive Decision Report, and Decision Notice are attached at Appendix A and B.

5. Detailed report

The call-in submitted to the Monitoring Officer was in the following terms:

'We, the undersigned, wish to 'Call-In' the decision made by the City Mayor to increase council on street and off street parking charges. Raising parking fees will disproportionately impact people on low-incomes, many of whom are already struggling with rising living costs and increased council tax payments. Since the Labour government took office, financial pressures have increased significantly, with last week's Spring Statement bringing further economic strain with reduced help and support. Increasing parking fees will add yet another burden to those who can least afford it.

Beyond harming residents, these proposed changes will have a wider negative impact on the city centre's economy. The reason for this is clear. Leicester's high parking charges are literally driving business and customers away to Fosse Park, which offers free, convenient and safe parking and is just a few minutes away from the city centre. If the council considered reducing parking fees it could actually see an increase in revenue. Attracting more visitors to Leicester would be good for local businesses and it would help to revitalise the city centre. Yet the council seems intent on doing the opposite, making it increasingly unaffordable to park in Leicester, which will result in further economic decline, with more businesses and customers moving to Fosse Park. We also oppose the proposed removal of the "Night Owl" reduced parking rates, as this would harm the nighttime economy. Instead of deterring evening visitors, the council should be encouraging them. Raising parking fees at this time is a bad decision which will hurt residents, businesses and the city's economy. We respectfully request that the council reconsider the proposals to increase charges and instead starts to adopt policies that will boost investment and encourage economic growth, rather than pricing people out of the city centre.'

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the call-in satisfies the requirements of the procedure rules and it has, therefore, proceeded as per the process set out at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action, unless the circumstances of Rule 12 (f) are fulfilled, and the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the full Council. Prior to this it shall be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee if one is programmed or a special scrutiny committee if one is convened.

The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

The relevant scrutiny committee/commission makes a resolution to withdraw; or

The sponsor and seconder of the call-in inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish the call-in to be withdrawn.

Following consideration of a call-in by Full Council, the original decision will be deemed to be revived in its entirety. Any agreement by the decision maker to change the original decision will require a further formal Executive Decision.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the call-in beyond those in the decision report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance

Dated : 10 March 2025

6.2 Legal implications

The legal implications arising from the call-in are explained in sections 2 and 5 above

Signed: Kamal Adatia, Monitoring Officer

Dated: 10 March 2025

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no comments in addition to those in the decision report.

Signed: Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer

Dated: 11 March 2025

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no further climate emergency implications to those provided in the decision report.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency)

Dated: 11 March 2025

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A Executive Decision Report – Parking Fees and Charges dated 25 March 2025

Appendix B Decision Notice - Parking Fees and Charges dated 25 March 2025

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No