

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England)
Regulations 2012.

Decision Date – 20/02/2023

Decision Maker: Executive Director of Development and City Services

Decision status: Is Key decision? No

Is subject to call in? No

Decision details:

On 23 February 2021, the Council agreed to introduce charging for parking in our parks.

The setting of tariffs in all the council's car parks is an executive function and as such, it falls under the executive scheme of delegation. This supplies the Executive Director of Development and City Services authority for all functions relating to car parking.

Since 2021, the council has been working on introducing charges for parking at Eaton Park. As part of the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order to allow charges to be introduced, a statutory public consultation was conducted on our behalf by NpLaw . The consultation ran between the 26 November 2022 and 3 January 2023, 717 responses were received, and were reviewed on the 13 January 2023 by the Executive Director of Development and City Services. A decision in principle to progress with the implementation of the project was taken at this time

Given the number of responses received, advice was received from NpLaw that a second phase of consultation should be conducted. This second consultation began on the 02 February and closed on the 17 February 2023. As part of this process the council responded directly to all respondents, outlining how the council proposed to address their concerns. The council also offered all consultees the opportunity to keep their opposition or withdraw their oppositions. A copy of the council's responses to consultees are attached.

Following the closure of the second phase, the Executive Director of Development and City Services reviewed the responses on the 20 February 2023 and recommended that the project be implemented.

The new car parking tariffs are detailed as per the attached schedule. The introduction of the new tariffs will come into operation during March 2023.

Publication date: 24/02/2023

Date of decision phase 1 consultation closure: 13/01/2023

Date of decision phase 2 consultation closure: 17/02/2023

Eaton Park Consultation letters

Letter 1. Cost of Living Pressures

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposed introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park. The consultation period closed on 3 January 2023, council officers have reviewed all responses and have made recommendations based on the feedback received.

Your response highlighted your concerns in relation to the current financial pressure facing our community and regular visitors to the park.

The council understands the effects the cost of living crisis is having on households. However, is not immune to the current financial situation and has a deficit of more than £6million. This needs to be addressed in order to protect vital services for residents.

The council has purposely kept the proposed parking fees low – with costs starting at £2 for up to four hours. Following the consultation feedback, the council will now introduce a season ticket for regular park visitors. The proposed Eaton Park season ticket will offer a cost-effective way to park at Eaton Park, working out at less than £2 per week over the year. The council proposes to offer two ticket options - a six and 12-monthly season ticket.

Season Ticket	Charge
6 Month Season Ticket	£40
12 Month Season Ticket	£70

While those needing to drive and park at Eaton Park will need to pay for parking, the park remains free at point of use and the council would encourage as many people as possible to walk/cycle/use public transport to travel there. Eaton Park is one of 23 parks, 81 play parks and 56 natural areas managed by the city council in Norwich

If you wish to change your objection to the introduction of charges in Eaton Park, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Withdraw Opposition*

'I wish to withdraw my objection to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park.'

If you still wish to maintain my opposition to the proposed introduction of charging for parking, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Maintain Opposition*

'I maintain my opposition to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park'

The council would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Letter 2. Physical health and mental wellbeing

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposed introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park. The consultation period closed on 3 January 2023, council officers have reviewed all responses and have made recommendations based on the feedback received.

Your response highlighted your concerns in relation to the role which our city's parks and open spaces offer the community both for physical health and mental wellbeing. The council understands that parks and green open spaces offer many benefits for the community, both for physical and mental health. The proposal to introduce charging for parking in Eaton Park has been a difficult decision for the council but one that we have had to make because of mounting financial pressure. The city council currently has a deficit of more than £6million and needs to consider introducing these charges in order to help protect vital services for residents.

While those needing to drive and park at Eaton Park will need to pay for parking, the park remains free at point of use and the council would encourage as many people as possible to walk/cycle/use public transport to travel there. Eaton Park is one of 23 parks, 81 play parks and 56 natural areas managed by the city council in Norwich.

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The council would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Letter 3. Local Parking Pressures

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposed introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park. The consultation period closed on 3 January 2023, council officers have reviewed all responses and have made recommendations based on the feedback received.

Your response highlighted your concerns in relation to potential localised parking issue in the roads surrounding Eaton Park.

The council has purposely kept fees low – with costs starting at £2 for up to four hours, in order to encourage people to continue using the car parks in Eaton Park. Following the consultation feedback, the council will now introduce a season ticket for regular park visitors. The proposed Eaton Park season ticket will offer a cost-effective way to park at Eaton Park, working out at less than £2 per week over the year. The council proposes to offer two ticket options - a six and 12-monthly season ticket.

Season Ticket	Charge
6 Month Season Ticket	£40
12 Month Season Ticket	£70

While those needing to drive and park at Eaton Park will need to pay for parking, the park remains free at point of use and the council would encourage as many people as possible to walk/cycle/use public transport to travel there. Eaton Park is one of 23 parks, 81 play parks and 56 natural areas managed by the city council in Norwich.

If parking charges are introduced, the City Council will closely monitor parking in the surrounding streets to make sure there are no issues for residents.

If you wish to change your objection to the introduction of charges in Eaton Park, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Withdraw Opposition*

'I wish to withdraw my objection to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park.'

If you still wish to maintain my opposition to the proposed introduction of charging for parking, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Maintain Opposition*

'I maintain my opposition to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park'

The council would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Letter 4. Blue Badge Parking

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposed introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park. The consultation period closed on 3 January 2023, council officers have reviewed all responses and have made recommendations based on the feedback received.

Your response highlighted your concerns in relation to people wishing to park in the park who might be disabled or have mobility issues and have a blue badge. If parking charges are introduced, visitors who hold a blue badge and park in the designated disabled bays will be entitled to park for free.

Following the consultation feedback, if parking charges are introduced, the council proposes to include a season ticket option for regular visitors (who do not hold blue badges) to the park. The proposed Eaton Park season ticket will offer a cost-effective way to park, working out at less than £2 per week over the year. The council proposes to offer two options - a six and 12-monthly season ticket.

Season Ticket	Charge
6 Month Season Ticket	£40
12 Month Season Ticket	£70

The council understands the effects the cost of living crisis is having on households. However, it is not immune from the current financial situation and has deficit of more than £6million. This needs to be addressed in order to protect vital services for residents. The council has kept the costs as low as possible, with people being able to park for up to four hours for £2 and introduced a season ticket option, as it understands the financial pressure people are under.

While those needing to drive and park at Eaton Park will need to pay for parking, the park remains free at point of use and the council would encourage as many people as possible to walk/cycle/use public transport to travel there. Eaton Park is one of 23 parks, 81 play parks and 56 natural areas managed by the city council in Norwich.

If you wish to change your objection to the introduction of charges in Eaton Park, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Withdraw Opposition*

'I wish to withdraw my objection to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park.'

If you still wish to maintain my opposition to the proposed introduction of charging for parking, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Maintain Opposition*

'I maintain my opposition to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park'

The council would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Letter 5. General, multiple issues

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposed introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park. The consultation period closed on 3 January 2023, council officers have reviewed all responses and have made recommendations based on the feedback received.

Your response highlighted several areas where you expressed concerns about the introduction of charging for parking within the park.

The council has purposely kept fees low – with costs starting at £2 for up to four hours. As a result of the consultation feedback, the Council will now introduce a season ticket for regular park visitors. The proposed Eaton Park season ticket will offer a cost-effective way to park, working out at less than £2 per week over the year. The council proposes to offer two options - a six and 12-monthly season ticket.

Season Ticket	Charge
6 Month Season Ticket	£40
12 Month Season Ticket	£70

The council understands the effects the cost of living crisis is having on households. However, it is not immune to the current financial situation and has a deficit of more than £6million. This needs to be addressed in order to protect vital services for residents.

The council recognises that the city's parks and open spaces offer many benefits for the community both for physical and mental health. While those needing to drive and park at Eaton Park will need to pay for parking, the park remains free at point of use and the council would encourage as many people as possible to walk/cycle/use public transport to travel there. Eaton Park is one of 23 parks, 81 play parks and 56 natural areas managed by the city council in Norwich.

If parking charges are introduced, visitors who hold a blue badge and park in the designated disabled bays will be entitled to park for free.

If car parking charges are introduced at Eaton Park, the city council will be monitoring parking in the surrounding streets to make sure there are no issues for residents.

If you wish to change your objection to the introduction of charges in Eaton Park, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Withdraw Opposition*

'I wish to withdraw my objection to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park.'

If you still wish to maintain my opposition to the proposed introduction of charging for parking, please respond via email before the 16 February 2023 to norwichparks@norwich.gov.uk Or reply to this email stating the following:

Title your Email: *Maintain Opposition*

'I maintain my opposition to the introduction of charging for parking in Eaton Park'

The council would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF NORWICH (EATON PARK)
(OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2022

The City Council of Norwich (“the Council”) propose to make the above referenced Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, the effect of which will be to:-

- (i) revoke the existing The City of Norwich (Eaton Park) (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2011;
- (ii) provide off street parking places at the Eaton Park Car Park (East and West) as specified in the Schedule below; and
- (iii) introduce a charging schedule for the use of the off street parking places at Eaton Park Car Park (East and West) as specified in the Schedule below.

Further details may be viewed online at www.norwich.gov.uk/parking and may also be available for inspection at Norwich City Council, City Hall, Norwich by making an appointment through the contacts below.

Any objections and representations relating to the proposed Order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are made. All correspondence for these proposals must be received at the office of nplaw, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH, marked for the attention of the Traffic Regulation Team, by 03rd January 2023. They may also be emailed to TrafficOrders@norfolk.gov.uk.

Any questions about this notice should be directed to Norwich City Council on 0344 980 333 or ParkingRequests@norwich.gov.uk

SCHEDULE

Parking place	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Scale of parking charges	Type of permits authorised to park
Eaton Park Car Park (East and West)	Monday to Sunday	See notices on site detailing specific hours of operation	Monday to Sunday, including bank holidays: Up to 4 hours - £2.00 Up to 5 hours - £5.00 Up to 6 hours - £6.00 Over 6 hours - £8.00	Eaton Park Season Ticket

Dated this 25th day of November 2022

Graham Nelson
Executive Director of Development and City Services

City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

Note: Information you send to the Council will be used for any purpose connected with the making or confirming of this Order and will be held as long as reasonably necessary for those purposes. It may also be released to others in response to freedom of information requests.