

Full Council – Thursday 17th October 2024

Amendment - Notice of Motion

Urgent action to support seafront businesses (removal of 18:00 to 21:00 Parking Charges in Zone 1A during the low season)

The previous joint administration introduced 18:00 to 21:00 parking charges in Zone 1A, for the municipal year 2023/4 onwards.

These were removed by the Conservative administration that took over in May 2023 and reintroduced via a budget amendment at budget council in February 2024.

This means that parking in Zone 1A between 6pm and 9pm costs £3 per hour for those who do not have a Southend Pass.

Brighton & Hove City Council, now under Labour control, are reviewing their parking charges, set by the previous Green Party administration, as their city-high parking charges of £42 per day were believed to be detrimental to their local economy.

Therefore, Southend-on-Sea City Council resolves to:

1. Note Brighton & Hove City Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, Parking and Public Realm statement that "High car park prices were deterring some people from coming into the city...".
2. Recognise that high coastal parking charges such as those seen in Brighton, Newquay, Falmouth, and Great Yarmouth, could have a detrimental impact on the economy and local jobs in Southend if replicated locally
3. Note that a recent study by Motorscan found that Southend's average charge for an 8-hour parking stay was less than 50% of the same parking stay in Brighton
4. Requests the Administration to review off-season parking charges as part of the setting of fees and charges by the end of Q3 2024/25, noting that the administration has already committed to introducing off-season parking charges and to re-evaluate the parking zones, as set out in the Joint Administration Agreement published on 21st May 2024
5. Designate the off-season as a period of no fewer than 3 months per year to be set as part of the fees and charges schedule.

Proposer: Cllr Daniel Cowan

Seconder: Cllr Matt Dent

