

CAPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM REPLACEMENT CAR PARKS (Amended)

Plymouth Highways



1. Introduction

- 1.1. This briefing report seeks Authority to broaden the scope of an existing capital approval for the purchase of parking payment machines, to deliver the Council decision to increase the options to pay for parking and remove cash as a payment option.
- 1.2. These changes, approved at Cabinet on 10th November, will deliver the following objectives:
 - Ensure a consistent approach to payment for parking between On Street and Off Street parking;
 - Enhance the customer experience through increasing accessibility via a greater range of options to pay for parking;
 - Respond to the climate emergency through reducing our carbon footprint in the city.

2. Background

- 2.1. All Plymouth City Council car parks have been cashless since June 2020, where customers have the option to pay via debit/credit, RingGo (via mobile app, telephone call or via web) and more recently, Android and Apple pay.
- 2.2. Unlike car parks, of the 200 parking machines On Street in the city, only 10 machines offer payment via debit/credit card. This means that if cash was not accepted On Street, the only option for motorists at the 190 locations would be RingGo (mobile app, telephone call or via web).
- 2.3. To increase the options for payment On Street requires the replacement of On Street parking meters, as many are over 15 years old and not able to offer further payment options.
- 2.4. The parking service has a current £400k allocation of Capital Borrowing to support the replacement of the payment systems in our Multi-Storey car parks. This funding was approved (Executive Decision L37) in 2019/20 in order to ensure the Council could continue to take payments where a number of car park systems were approaching end of serviceable life.
- 2.5. The delivery of these replacement systems was delayed due to Covid-19 and where more efficient systems were identified at a total cost of £79k. The remaining capital allocated was then proposed to be used to fund the replacement On Street payment systems, enabling the Council to deliver the objectives.

3. Current Position

- 3.1. Whilst the service has an existing and approved capital allocation for the replacement of parking payment systems, the original business case only named the existing multi-story car parks.

- 3.2. The remaining capital allocation of £321k is required to replace the city's On Street parking machines, in order to implement the Cabinet decision of 10th November, expanding the additional payment options and removal of cash payments.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. It is the proposal of this report to broaden the original scope of the £400k supported borrowing to finance the procurement of both On Street and Off Street payment systems, above the original intention of the Off Street multistorey car parks listed in the original capital approval.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Whilst the replacement of the city's On Street parking meters will be subject to a formal procurement process, based on soft market testing the Council will be able to replace all of the required existing parking meters with the remaining £321k of supported borrowing.
- 5.2. The financial impact of replacing all parking meters, expanding payment options and the removal of cash (including the cessation of cash collecting and handling) has already been accounted for within the Parking Modernisation Plan approved at Cabinet on 10th November 2022.
- 5.3. The procurement activity will include the purchase of new parking meters as well as maintenance contracts required to ensure the continued operation of the meters. The revenue cost of such service contracts will be met through existing revenue budgets allocated to the maintenance of parking payment systems.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. It is the recommendation of this report to:

1. Approve for capital allocation L37 19/20 to include for the replacement of On Street parking machines;
2. Delegate the award of the contract to the Service Director for Street Services;
3. Authorise the procurement process of the capital replacement and required maintenance and service contracts.

- 6.2. In doing so this decision will:

- Enable the Service to implement the proposals as set out with the Parking Modernisation and Environment Plan approved at Cabinet on 10th November;
- Ensure a consistent approach to payment for parking between On Street and Off Street parking;
- Enhance the customer experience through increasing accessibility via a greater range of options to pay for parking;
- Respond to the climate emergency through reducing our carbon footprint in the city.