Cabinet

Date of meeting:	09 March 2026
Title of Report:	**Parking Services Annual Review and Proposed Updates 2026/27**
Lead Member:	Councillor John Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Mike Artherton (Group Manager - Parking, Marine and Garage Services)
Contact Email:	mike.artherton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PSAR2627
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report outlines a suite of amendments to parking as part of a plan that seeks to balance improvements in service delivery and enhance customer experience while responding to the significant challenges relating to increasing costs of delivering services alongside resources needed to set a balanced budget for 2026/27 and the need to maintain levels of income critical to the delivery of key services.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. To agree to the following:

    1.1. To apply parking charges to all motor vehicles in Council car parks, as set out within section 5.4, ensuring a consistent approach across all chargeable parking bays.

    1.2. To remove cash payments once the On Street payment system upgrades are complete, as set out within section 5.7, improving customer experience through greater payment choice, ensuring consistency across all parking locations, and reducing CO_2 emissions linked to cash collection and processing.

2. To agree to implement the following changes not less than 21 days following publication of these changes through a Notice of Variation:

    2.1. Increase on-street parking charges, as set out in section 5.2 and Appendix D, to align more closely with other councils and meet rising service delivery costs.

    2.2. Increase off-street parking fees, as set out in section 5.4 and Appendix E, to ensure charges remain comparable with other councils and support rising service costs.

2.3. Increase parking permit fees, as set out in sections 5.8, 5.9 and Appendix F, to meet the rising costs of maintaining schemes and encourage more sustainable travel choices in line with the Council's Net Zero Action Plan.

3. To agree to undertake statutory consultation on the following proposals:

3.1. Introduce coastal car park charges at Jennycliff, Mountbatten and Strand Street, as set out within section 5.5 and Appendix C, to ensure a more consistent approach while maintaining support for short-stay visitors.

3.2. Introduce charges for Blue Badge holders on the Hoe Promenade, as set out within section 5.6 and Appendix E, to ensure a fair and consistent charging approach across all car parks.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not increase fees and charges.

The proposals have been considered fully by officers considering benchmarking and the need to achieve cost recovery and maintain levels of income critical to the delivery of key services. Fees are proposed at the level considered appropriate in light of this and the substantial shortfall in resources needed to set a balanced budget for 2026/27. The option of setting no increase has been rejected on the basis it would not achieve cost recovery, and/or may affect the viability of services.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth, and links directly to 'providing quality public services', and 'spending money wisely'.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Robust and accurate financial monitoring underpins the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The Council's MTFP is updated based upon on-going monitoring information, both on a local and national context. Any adverse variations from the annual budget will place pressure on the MTFP going forward and require additional savings to be generated in future years.

Financial Risks

In relation to increases in charges there is some risk that proposed increases will impact customer demand and choice. Fees are proposed at the level considered appropriate in light of benchmarking and the need to generate income critical to the continued delivery of key services, as such the impact of the increases, if approved, will be monitored and amendments sought as necessary.

It is expected that this decision will generate a maximum amount of additional income of £1.443M.

Legal Implications

The proposals set out within this report are required to follow statutory processes which are set out within this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

If approved, the proposals within this report will reduce the Councils carbon footprint by 8,000kg CO2 and encourage the use of more sustainable travel, aligned to the Councils ambitions around the environment and sustainability including actions within the Net Zero Action Plan

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
I	Briefing Report – Parking Services Annual							
A	On Street Benchmarking							
B	Off Street Benchmarking							
C	Coastal Car Parks Benchmarking							
D	On Street Proposals							
E	Off Streets Proposals V2							
F	Permit Proposals							
G	EIA Parking Modernisation February 2026 V2							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andy Sharp, Interim Service Director for Street Services
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 23/02/2026
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor John Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) Date approved: 26/02/2026