

# **MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council 21 March 2016



## **Hospital Parking Charges**

As the National Health Service (NHS) was founded on the principle of access based on need and not an individual's ability to pay, Plymouth City Council notes with sadness that the Conservative Government has repeatedly failed to intervene to scrap hospital car parking charges. This failure has led to hospitals hiking up parking charges to plug gaps created by the Conservative Government's cuts to the NHS.

Plymouth City Council believes this is little more than a stealth tax on the sick and their families causing financial hardship for many in Plymouth, especially those who have to visit hospital regularly for treatment or get to their workplace. There are direct consequences too for neighbourhoods close by such as Derriford, Thornhill and Estover as staff avoid unaffordable parking charges by parking in surrounding areas causing problems for residents.

We therefore call on the Government to scrap hospital parking charges immediately for patients, carers and staff, so Plymothians can have access to free hospital parking which is already available elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

**Proposed by Councillor Jon Taylor**

**Seconded by Councillor Bill Stevens**