

## Babergh parking charges proposals: We want your view

BMSDC Engagement Mailbox <Engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>

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Dear Clerk,

Please send us your feedback on Babergh District Council's proposal to vary parking charges in Sudbury, Hadleigh, Lavenham and Chelmondiston.

The Council has significant budget pressures in the next financial year and over the medium term; and can no longer afford to subsidise 'free parking' if we are to continue delivering other essential services to residents and communities.

Subsidising three-hours free parking currently costs at least £425K per year, and this is likely to increase in future years.

The proposal is to introduce modest, revised tariffs in council-run car parks which are as low as possible compared to other local councils, so that we can continue to attract visitors, and ensure shoppers and workers have access to the right spaces in the right places when they need them.

Any new tariffs would also remove the burden of 'free' parking being subsidised by taxpayers, including non-motorists, whether they use it or not.

Existing on-street parking would be unchanged by this proposal and blue badge holders will still be able to park in the council's car parks for free.

Any surplus generated by this proposal would be reinvested in parking and sustainable transport for the district; and this could assist in improving first and last impressions of our towns for visitors.

We do not believe the success of town centres is defined by parking charges alone, but we do recognise there is concern about this proposal and there are challenges – which is why we want to engage with key stakeholders to minimise these and find solutions which respond to concerns in each locality. One size is unlikely to 'fit all'.

For clarity, this engagement is not a yes/no referendum process.

This survey is aimed specifically at town and parish councils and district councillors as representatives of your local communities. It can be completed by clerks, district councillors and other recognised groups.

**Please let us have your detailed views by completing this online survey.**

[https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BDC\\_Parking\\_Charges/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BDC_Parking_Charges/)

The deadline for your responses is **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024** and we will publish the results of this engagement on our website.

This exercise will build upon the previous engagement from our Parking Strategy consultation, [which can be found here](#).

Your feedback will be reflected in proposals to be examined by our Overview and Scrutiny Committee before going to the Cabinet for a final decision.

Further information can be found [in these FAQs on our website](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact [engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) and we will respond.

Kind regards

Mark Emms  
Operations Director

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