

Equality Impact Assessment



Name of project/proposal

Variation to HCC Countryside Service 'Charging and Pricing Policy' and 'Parking Charges 2016/17'

Contact name

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Department

Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose for project/proposal

The Countryside Service has developed an overarching policy covering pricing, charges and fees to ensure pricing and charging structures, including concessions and refunds, are managed in a fair and consistent way across the portfolio of country parks, countryside sites and the rights of way network, where relevant. As a result, a policy has been developed which clearly defines what is meant as a price, charge or fee, and sets out price setting guidance for all staff in the service and a sets out minimum rates for concessions for admissions and memberships to ensure a more consistent approach is applied.

Admission and membership concessions were already in place across the service, this policy has been put in place to ensure consistency and a minimum concession rate is in place for the following groups; pre-school children, children aged 3 -16, over 65s, students and essential carers.

In line with this, parking charges have also been increased from 1 April 2016 across all Country Parks (where parking charges apply) with a fixed increase of 30p on the hour charge and 50p on the full day charge. Annual parking permits and Country Park memberships (which includes parking) have also been increased accordingly. The new charges were approved by Head of Countryside Service on 14.01.16.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

Yes

This policy was drafted in consultation with teams and managers across the Countryside Service and approved by the Head of Countryside Service on 11.05.16. It is also in line with the new 'Charging and Pricing Principles' agreed with wider CCBS departments including Libraries, Registration, Outdoor Centres and Hillier Gardens.

As part of the change to parking charges, a 'Notice of Variation' to notify the public of changes to parking charges were also displayed at each of the Country Parks for the full 21 days leading up to 1 April 2016.

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Low
Disability	Low
Sexual orientation	None
Race	None
Religion and belief	None
Gender reassignment	None
Sex	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None

Other policy considerations

Poverty	Low
Rurality	None
Other factors	None
If other please describe	

Geographical impact

All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?*

Yes

No

Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?

Parking Charges and admission/membership concessions were already in place across the service and no equality impact on protected characteristics or other policy considerations listed above is expected, with the following exceptions:

A low positive impact for age and disability is expected as the policy is designed to ensure consistency across our service and a minimum concession rate is in place for the following groups; pre-school children, children aged 3 -16, over 65s, students and essential carers.

A low negative impact with respect to poverty has been identified relating to the increase in parking charges, however, the parking charges are in-line with or lower than the market rate. Information on public transport links to each of the parks is also provided on the 'visit us' pages for each of the park websites, with the exception of Lepe Country Park which doesn't have regular bus access but does have a summer 'Beach Bus' (provided by the national park authority) from July to September which is promoted locally.

Final decision date

Final decision date due
Decision to be made by

14 Jan 2016
Nothing selected