

Item 8 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“Will you confirm where car park charging has been introduced since 1st April 2018 where no charges were previously applicable and what is the anticipated contribution from these car parks towards the £1.407 million budget saving rolled forward into the base budget for 2019/20?”

Response to Mr A Baxter

The figure quoted in the question was an agreed budget saving proposal for 2018/19 of £1.407m. This consisted of three elements:-

1. Tariff reviews £1.010m (change of charges at existing car parks and establishment of a minimum fee)
2. Car Park Rollout £0.067m (rollout of charges at Council car parks that were free to use at that time)
3. New Services and Uplifts £0.370m (changes to permit charges, new services and cost recovery)

It is incorrect to link last year’s saving with the roll out of car parking. Members will be aware from the revenue budget monitoring reported to Committee throughout 2018/19 that there was a significant forecast shortfall against overall car parking income. This was reflected in the budget decisions that the Council took in February 2019 to restore the base budget for 2019/20 by £0.7m to bring the budget more in line with actual income. This budget remains under pressure to achieve the level of income required to meet the core budget.

The only new car park where the Council charged from 1st April 2018 was Chanonry Point. The amount of income received net of VAT in 2018/19 was £17,000. The estimated full year amount for 2019/20 is £35,000.