

Item 10 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“Which communities have been consulted on the introduction of car parking charges, since my question to you at the full council meeting on 9th May 2019, and can you provide details of reports presented to Area Committees in relation to the roll out of car parking charges within the area of their remit and list those car parks where charging has been introduced since 9th May 2019?”

Response to Mr Baxter

As noted in the response to you in May 2019, the focus of initial discussions have been with Members. This is as per the policy agreed at Council in June 2018 which set out the need to first discuss and agree with Members potential sites for introducing car parking charges and then to consider how best to engage the local community. Initial discussions with Members are complete. The exception to this is Inverness, where it has proved challenging to identify dates when the majority of Members are available and with Cromarty Firth ward. The sessions with Members have extended to consider wider income generating opportunities.

Discussions with Members to date have identified a number of potential sites for introducing car parking charges or developing new sites for car parking. In total, 49 separate sites have been identified. 14 are potential new opportunities for development and 35 are existing sites. These are all at different stages of development:

- Community engagement complete/charging being implemented – 5
- Community engagement underway – 4
- Community engagement required – 16
- Further discussion needed with Members re scope and process - 6
- Business case / scoping work required on viability – 11
- Ownership confirmation required – 3
- Development of partnership opportunities – 4

Engagement to date has been prioritised in areas of high tourism.

Engagement has been completed in the following sites:

- Mallaig West Bay (pre-dates May 2019) – local committee decision on implementation required on 29-8-19. If agreed, charging will start 2-9-19
- Storr roadside parking - agreed at Skye committee in June 2019. Charging commenced 16-7-19

- Storr car park – to be agreed at Skye committee in June September 2019. Car park completion due October 2019. Charging to commence from then.
- Quiraing Car Park – partnership with SKIRPID, charging to commence wk 2-9-19
- Portree Lisgarry Court – charging to commence wk 2-9-19

Engagement is underway in:

- Quiraing roadside – engagement with local community complete now traffic order consultation underway. To be considered at Skye Committee in September 2019.
- Neist Point – engagement with local community ongoing. To be considered at Skye Committee in September 2019.
- Portree Bayfield West – engagement with local community underway. To be considered at Skye Committee in September 2019.
- Broadford Ford Road – engagement with local community now complete with formal traffic order underway. To be considered at Skye Committee in September 2019.

A programme of engagement is planned in those sites identified as requiring community engagement. Work is also scheduled to explore the new opportunities and ideas proposed by Members related to car parking.

The scale of activity required is considerable and, with this in mind, a bid has been submitted to phase 4 of the Change Fund to recruit a full time project manager, a technical assistant to assist in the delivery of operational parking activity and a community engagement officer to support and accelerate the programme.