

## **LANCASHIRE COUNTY UNISON**

### **CAR PARKING CHARGING PROPOSALS**

As part of the budget process for 2007/08, proposals were considered to introduce car parking for staff from 1 April 2008 with the 2008/09 budget forecast including a reduction of £596,000, comprising £368,000 income from charging and £228,000 in respect of the non-renewal of car park permits.

The Management Side envisaged that the amount of daily charge for parking should exceed the current Park and Ride charges (£1.70 - £2.00) to encourage staff to use this facility and suggested that the charge should initially be set at either £2.50 or £3.00 to assume the savings assumed in the budget forecast for 2008/09. A premium charge of £700.00 per annum was proposed for a limited number of officers with designated parking spaces.

Whilst the above proposals relate specifically to Central Preston car parks, it was proposed that the same principles be applied to car parking available at other LCC offices.

These proposals were presented to the Staff Side on 22 August 2008 when the Staff Side pointed out that they did not accept the principle of charging for car parking to enable staff to work and regarded the proposals as a pay cut for a significant number of employees. The Staff Side raised a number of other objections to the proposals citing the potential environmental impact on the immediate area and the adverse impact on the ability of the County Council to recruit and retain staff. The matter was referred to a meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee (Members) which took place on 23 October 2007.

At that meeting it was stated that "The Members JNCC confirmed that the County Council has already agreed that car parking charges will be introduced from 1 April 2008. It is requested that officers in conjunction with the trade unions secure agreement to the level of charges and at the same time, examine other areas which may help to mitigate the impact of car parking changes on staff and members. This will then be reported back to the Members JNCC no later than mid November 2007".

Since that meeting two meetings have taken place between senior officers of the authority and nominated trade union representatives and the main issues discussed. As a result of those discussions, significant movement has been made on the initial proposals.

The Members JNCC received a report on proposed changes to the original propositions at a meeting on 19 November 2007 and resolved to approve the following proposals:

1. Adoption of a Banded charging system with effect from 1 April 2008.
2. Defer charging at the Hub, pending the implementation of a Park and Ride facility.
3. Retain car park permits for Avenham and Preston Bus Station and to note charging proposals for such staff holding such permits.
4. A number of Blue Badge parking bays located close to buildings will be available to staff displaying Blue Badges. However Blue Badge holders will be charged on the same basis as other staff.
5. With respect to the roll out of charging to other LCC offices, it is proposed that charging will be applied in line with the proposed implementation of office rationalisation across the County.

The Banded System of Charging as set out in paragraph 1 is as follows:-

(i)	upto Scale 6 (SCP 4 – 28) or equivalent	£1 per day
(ii)	SO1 – PO54 (SCP 29 – 54) or equivalent	£2 per day
(iii)	above SCP 54 or equivalent	£3 per day
(iv)	Designated spaces	£700 per annum

The rates quoted in (i), (ii) and (iii) above will apply where an employee parks for a period in excess of 5 hours on any particular day. Periods of up to 5 hours will be charged at a rate equivalent to half those quoted.

These arrangements will be subject to review after 6 months operation.