Member Motion, Full Council 6 December 2022: Congestion Charge Motion

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is consulting on proposals to transform the way people travel in, out and around Greater Cambridge. The consultation closes at midday on 23 December 2022.

All vehicles moving in and out of a proposed Sustainable Travel Zone would pay a flat daily charge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The proposed charge for private cars is £5 a day.

The zone charge would cover the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, home to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Royal Papworth Hospital and the Rosie Maternity Hospital. Some exemptions and discounts are proposed eg for visits to A&E, but not for general hospital attendances to outpatients, inpatients, maternity, for friends, relatives and carers, or to work there. Low income discounts are proposed but would be mean tested and exemptions on medical grounds would require a medical assessment.

The Air Quality Report for Cambridge covering 2020 shows no exceedances of statutory limits anywhere since 2017, year on year pollution reductions, and the roadside monitor near Addenbrookes showed less than half the legal NO2 limit and also on a reducing trend.*

Proposed motion concerning the Cambridge congestion charge proposals:

'The council requests the chief executive to respond to the consultation expressing this council's serious concern about the financial impact and stress of the proposals on the many patients, carers, visitors and staff from Uttlesford for whom alternatives to car transport are not realistic

The GCP is to be strongly requested to exclude the Cambridge Biomedical Campus from any congestion charge implementation.'

Proposer: Cllr Sutton

Seconder: Cllr Hargreaves

* Hills Road 4 monitor No 70 at 16.7 vs legal limit 40.