

COUNCIL
22 February 2011

WILTSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PEGGY DOW
DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR DICK TONGE, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSPORT**

Question 1

Can the Leader explain to the residents of Marlborough why they face the highest parking charges in Wiltshire.

When the Unitary Council was formed, one of the stated objectives was harmonisation of policies across the county. Despite the cabinet recently adopting a countywide parking strategy, local residents in Marlborough still face punitive parking charges including some charges that are three times the county standards set in the parking strategy. Can the leader inform the residents of Marlborough when she will take steps to achieve harmonisation in parking charges.

Response

The charges in the Hillier's Yard and Polly Gardens have not changed as part of the Parking Strategy. The Cabinet agreement was that where the charges are higher than those proposed within the strategy, that the higher charges would remain in place until equalisation is achieved. Equalisation will happen when charges for Band 3 car parks reach the level in Marlborough. The timescale will depend on inflation and future pricing changes made by the Council.

The charges, which were set originally by Kennet District Council in 2006 as part of the management agreements signed with the car park owner, are at a level to discourage long stay parking in line with the agreements. This ensures turnover satisfying the requirements of the owner and other retailers, and means that the maximum number of shoppers can stay for a short period as these car parks will not be clogged up with all day parkers.