Kirby Muxloe Parish Council

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Subject:	Consultation launched on Leicester's proposed Workplace Parking Levy

Dear Sir / Madam.

Consultation launched on Leicester's proposed Workplace Parking Levy

Following consultation this summer on a new draft Leicester Transport Plan (2021-2036) and initial thinking for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL), the council has now launched a 12 week formal consultation on proposals for the introduction of a WPL for Leicester.

The WPL is designed to encourage people who travel into the city regularly for work to use alternatives to cars for their daily commute, while helping fund the improvements needed to ensure the city's public transport, cycling and walking networks provide good alternatives to car travel.

The WPL would apply citywide and businesses with more than 10 liable spaces would pay £550 per space per year for a licence to provide car parking for their employees. The scheme would raise around £95million over the first 10 years and enable the city council to match-fund with other grants to invest up to £450million in a transformational programme of transport improvements including:

- Over 400 high-quality electric tram-like buses by 2030, running on 25 'Mainline' services across city neighbourhoods, and five express 'Greenline' commuter services linking six park and ride sites.
- Giving buses priority on key routes to ensure they run regularly and frequently, using tickets which can be used across different bus services, and featuring real-time bus information.
- Affordable bus fares with discounts for elderly, disabled, young and unemployed people and the ability for all travellers to get the 'best fare' on any journeys across the city.
- A comprehensive network of cycleways linking existing city centre routes to local neighbourhoods and workplaces across the city.
- Investment in the railway station to ensure good regional and national connections, building on the £22m of funding recently secured to revamp the station.

This programme would help the city to meet tough decarbonisation and air quality targets as well as dealing with congestion and providing transport infrastructure to support housing and business growth.

A WPL has been operating successfully in Nottingham for nearly 10 years and the proposed scheme for Leicester closely follows this approach. The Council has been working closely with external bodies including Nottingham City Council and De Montfort University to assess economic, environmental, transport and health impacts and design an appropriate WPL scheme for Leicester.

The scheme would require Government approval, after which it could start in 2023. The city council would work closely with local businesses well in advance to prepare them for its introduction.

We are keen to hear your views on the detailed proposals and welcome feedback and comments that can help inform our WPL plans. The consultation will close on Sunday 13th March 2022.

To view the consultation documents and take part in the online consultation, please view: https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk

If you would like to discuss the WPL proposals for Leicester, a virtual meeting can be arranged. Please contact: transport.strategy@leicester.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,