



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr John Boyce

Leader – Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Letter sent by email

RE: Car Park charges across Oadby & Wigston

30th June 2021

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter dated 11th June, within which you helpfully confirmed the following council expenditure of over **£10,000,000 between 2010/11 – 2020/21** on the following areas:

- £865,000 on legal fees associated with employment tribunals and hearings
- £997,000 on staff pay-outs and
- £9,040,983 on temporary and agency staff

I note with concern that the legal fees associated with employment tribunals includes close to £200,000 in just the last two years alone. This sum in itself would have more than covered the £180,000 per annum figure I've seen used for car parking costs.

I've been contacted by a number of concerned residents with regards to the 'public meeting' held yesterday, where this was discussed further amongst Councillors. Many are concerned about a lack of awareness and transparency to the proceedings so I'd be grateful if you could please address the following questions.

- 1) How and when were details of this public meeting communicated to residents, officially by the Council?
- 2) Did the Council share details of this meeting with residents who had responded to the Council's consultation on the parking charges, given that you had their email addresses already?
- 3) When was it officially decided this would be a public meeting? Which is particularly important given that it was known on Tuesday 22nd that England would be playing an important game that night.
- 4) When does the Council expect to have completed the review and analysis of responses to the consultation, and how will details of this be published and shared with those who responded, and wider residents?
- 5) When will the final decision be taken on this, and what will be the forum i.e. will it be full Council?
- 6) Whichever meeting the decision is taken at, will this be a public meeting and how will details of this be communicated in advance to residents and businesses?
- 7) The Council undertook a consultation to hear from local residents and businesses on this, which would suggest the Council wanted views to inform decisions. What exactly is it the Council wants to see from this exercise that would mean the Council did not proceed with charges, if the Council is genuinely open to views on this?

Yours sincerely,

Neil O'Brien

Neil O'Brien MP

Member of Parliament for Harborough, Oadby and Wigston

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