

Committee	Full Council
Date	14 July 2025
Agenda Item	12

To consider removing the use of cash in HTC car parks

This matter was brought to council in June 2025, when councillors were divided on whether to stop taking cash or not.

Since that date, a survey of the public has been carried out, asking the general public in Halstead their views on the use of cash and of ways of paying for parking. This does not give us a clear decision on the use of cash.

Around 60% of respondents use a debit or credit card for most purchases, whereas less than 10% use cash. Around 45% of respondents state that they use cash for paying for parking in Halstead. 32% state that they would prefer cash payments to continue but a similar percentage said they would like the funds to be used to provide more events for all age groups. Respondents represented equally those aged 31-45, 46 – 60 and those over 60.

These results show that most people do not use cash very much in their everyday lives, but are happy still to pay cash in the car parks. It is for the council to make the decision as to whether it is worth keeping on the cash option when most people do not use cash for anything else in their daily lives. At present the cost of allowing cash payments could be seen as a poor use of council funds. The £4000 which would be saved could be better spent on events and buildings maintenance.

Recommendation : that HTC removes the possibility of paying by cash at the car park machines in Chapel Street and Butler Road car parks.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk