



CAR PARKING STRATEGY 2017 – 2022



July 2017

Introduction

This document sets out proposals for the way we manage and regulate our car parks district wide. The Council recognises that car parks play an important part in promoting the vitality and viability of town centres, assisting residents and businesses. We also recognise the value of green spaces and recreation in promoting healthy lifestyles and chooses to support the provision of car parks across the place.

This Car Parking Strategy focuses on off-street car parking provision. It covers a five year period (2017-2022) and will be reviewed annually when progress against each of the objectives will be reported. As a strategic document it does not set out each and every decision or action that will affect car parking in the District but does set out the basis on which the Council will make future decisions and what these should achieve.

At the heart of this strategy is the principle that there are enough car parking spaces in appropriate locations to ensure the success of our business areas and to improve the quality of the environment. To achieve this we need to understand what purpose car parking fulfils and what patterns of usage individual car parks have. We also need to understand what influences parking choices and what changes it would be possible to bring about if these are desirable. The Council takes the view that well used car parking is an essential economic asset but underused car parking is a wasted resource for which there may be a better use.

Blaby District Council recognises that some level of site parking is necessary for businesses to operate successfully, usually for the convenience of their customers, for visitors or staff. Promoting economic vitality means recognising this requirement and working with businesses to find the best way to support their commercial success.

The Council will maintain a dialogue with employers to understand their parking requirements and to work towards viable and effective options for them to reduce town centre parking without unreasonable impact on their business needs.

On street parking

On-street parking management and enforcement is a very important part of parking provision. Leicestershire County Council is responsible for on-street car parking provision within the Blaby District area. Enforcement however is delivered locally through a partnership arrangement which ensures that Officers employed on behalf of Blaby District Council can regulate both on and off-street parking. The advantages of this are huge in terms of efficiency and consistency.

Requests for additional on-street restrictions and changes are made through the Leicestershire County Council. Blaby District Council will seek to maintain the close

working relationships to ensure any on-street parking provision contributes to the aims of this strategy.

All of the Council's public car parks have disabled parking bays and blue badge holder's can park in any pay and display car park free of charge up to a maximum of three hours. Blue badge holders can also park free of charge in any space if the disabled bays are full provided their stay does not exceed three hours.

Management and enforcement

The Council has an enforcement service delivered in partnership with the Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council. This helps to ensure the various rules and restrictions are adhered to and the car parks are operated efficiently. Hours for regulation and enforcement are 0800-1800 Monday to Saturdays inclusive and this includes bank holidays.

The service also ensures the car parks are kept in good condition and state of repair. All pay and display car parks are patrolled daily and achieve the Park Mark Award. This is a challenging standard that recognises safety and security for customers.

Car Park Strategic Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the Car Parking Strategy is to provide and manage a range of safe, secure, well maintained and affordable car parking that meets the needs of residents, shoppers, businesses, visitors and commuters in a way to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Blaby District.

In order to do this we will seek to:

1. Ensure efficient parking and traffic management to support the local economy, provide access to key services and facilities and reduce congestion from vehicle movements
2. Use parking assets to the best advantage through pricing, promotion and information
3. Reinforce business and visitor confidence in available parking options by offering choice and ensuring quality, safety and accessibility for all
4. Maintain investment in those car parks where charges are applied
5. Provide free parking for our countryside and leisure car parks to encourage use, promote accessibility and healthy lifestyle choices

Based on an analysis of the way the car parks are used and the aim and objectives set out, the principles that inform the strategy are:

- a) Parking must be purposeful – located and managed to fulfil a specific functional requirement
- b) The burden of cost for car parks should be met by car park users
- c) Parking management is essential to ensure the wider environmental, social and economic objectives are met
- d) Car parks need to be a high standard in terms of facilities, condition and safety
- e) Pricing of car parking and promotion needs to be based on customer information and demand to encourage appropriate use
- f) Car parks of strategic importance i.e. those serving main shopping areas and rail use will be safe and secure. Charges will be applied to help to fund improvements and regulate demand.
- g) Car parks serving countryside areas, parks and leisure facilities will remain free for use
- h) On street parking usage patterns will be monitored and measured

- i) Marketing and promotion of car parking will be used as a tool to encourage use of the most appropriate parking for different purposes
 - j) A proactive approach to future parking provision through close working with current and future employers and service providers
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Objective 1 – Ensure efficient parking and traffic management

Activities

- a) Review the adequacy of data collated on customer satisfaction and car park use.
- b) Monitor levels of crime in car parks.
- c) Review and determine appropriate standards for the maintenance, design and provision of ancillary facilities and equipment.
- d) Ensure that all pay and display car parks reach the requirements of the Park Mark Award scheme.
- e) To meet best practice standards for Blue Badge Holders in terms of provision and accessibility.
- f) Review the need for lorry and bus provision within car parks
- g) Review road direction signage for off-street car parks with Leicestershire County Council.
- h) Consider the implications of current guidance that limits the number of parking spaces associated with new developments and prevent developer's contributions being sought for new car parking development.
- i) Work with Leicestershire County Council to examine the desirability for On-Street Resident Parking Areas.

Objective 2 - Use parking assets to the best advantage through pricing, promotion and information

Activities

- a) Undertake quarterly surveys to establish user patterns, needs and expectations.
- b) Agree and keep under review a structured charging policy for Council owned public car parks.

- c) Undertake a review of Council car parks in order to identify the level of demand and usage and propose options for any deficiencies and propose alternative uses/options for under used car parks as necessary and appropriate
 - d) Keep under review and proactively pursue development opportunities that could assist the overall level of parking provision for the District.
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Objective 3 – Reinforce business and visitor confidence in available parking options

Activities

- a) Make available comprehensive and up to date information on the car park service through the Council's website, social media and other means.
 - b) Make provision for season tickets as appropriate
 - c) Make provision for residents' and other parking permits.
 - d) Establish a framework concerning the use of car parks for purposes other than public car parking for example public or community events
 - e) Provide visitor information at car parks in association with Parish and Town Councils.
 - f) Consider ways of optimising car park and on-street parking management to minimise cost and maximise use of parking to the benefit of users and surrounding areas and facilities.
 - g) Be responsive to the impact on the District's businesses from retail parks and retail and business centres in neighbouring areas.
 - h) Keep the level of charges under review to ensure they do not adversely impact the local economy, have undesirable displacement consequences and that they encourage use of off-street spaces rather than on-street displacement in order to reduce incidences of congestion and improve road safety.
 - i) Ensure the charging regime supports the use of short-term spaces in convenient locations and that long-term need is provided out of centre where possible.
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Objective 4 – Maintain investment in car parking

Activities

- a) Implement a regular maintenance and inspection programme to ensure agreed standards are achieved.

- b) Work with Leicestershire County Council and the Police to ensure access to car parks minimises traffic conflict with pedestrians and other vulnerable users and to secure other transport improvements, e.g. integrated bus interchanges etc., to further the objectives of the Local Development Framework and Transport Plan.
 - c) Extend the provision of well-designed, secure cycle parks in Council car parks.
 - d) Produce a management guide that sets out how the Park Mark standards will apply to pay and display car parks.
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Car park schedule

This schedule does not form part of the Strategy moreover it is provided to show how it will be applied in general terms to each of the car parks operated by the Council.

Car park	Current position	Future
Johns Court, Blaby	Pay and display	Pay and display tariff changes
Enderby Road, Blaby	Pay and display	Pay and display tariff changes
Wigston Road, Blaby	Pay and display	Pay and display tariff changes
Weavers Court, Narborough	Pay and display	Pay and display tariff changes
Station, Narborough	Pay and display	Pay and display tariff changes
Leicester Road, Narborough	Free with limited waiting period	Pay and display
The Grange, Narborough	Free with limited waiting period	Leased or pay and display
Enderby Leisure Centre, Enderby	Free	Free
Pavilion Leisure Centre, Huncote	Free	Free
Bouskell Park, Blaby	Free	Free
Jubilee Park, Enderby	Free	Free
Fosse Meadows, Sharnford	Free	Free
Winston Ave, Croft	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
St Michaels Court, Stoney Stanton	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
Long Street, Stoney Stanton	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
Stamford St, Glenfield	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
Station Rd, Glenfield	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
Central St, Countesthorpe	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
John St, Enderby	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
King St, Enderby	Free with limited waiting period	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
High St, Whetstone	Leased to the Parish Council	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal
Castle Rd, Kirby Muxloe	Leased to the Parish Council	Transfer to Parish Council or other disposal