

Cabinet

13 July 2016

County Durham Parking Policies



Report of Corporate Management Team

Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development

Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval for the County Durham Parking Policies document to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. Once adopted this document will set out the Council's policies with regard to the provision of both on-street and off street parking across County Durham.

Background

2. Parking is important to many people's daily lives and the functioning of the economy. It facilitates people's access to a range of services and localities, and as a consequence there are often competing needs for the limited available spaces at both on and off street locations which must be carefully controlled.
3. This new County Durham Parking Policies document has been revised to reflect the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement countywide and updated to reflect changes in guidance on Parking Enforcement and changes to legislation.
4. Whilst the majority of policies from the previous document have been retained, additional Policies have been added as follows:
 - Electric charging bays
 - Observation times/grace periods
 - Blue Badge enforcement
 - Car Club Bays
 - Driveway protection/Keep Clear markings
 - Enforcement at dropped kerb crossings
 - Caravans and trailers

In addition the policies relating to permit parking areas have been amended.

County Durham Parking Policies Document

5. The County Durham Parking Policies Document sets out the Council's approach to parking across all of the towns and the larger and smaller villages of County Durham and to the management of the road network to ensure expeditious movement of traffic. It will also provide a clear and comprehensive framework for operation of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).
6. The policies within the document aim to address all aspects of parking control address the differing demands of highway users. It includes policies including those relating to:
 - The general application of on and off street parking controls;
 - The balance of provision of parking controls;
 - The control of parking for residents;
 - Disabled Persons Bay provision;
 - Business parking;
 - Car Clubs;
 - Heavy Commercial Vehicles;
 - New developments; and
 - Electric Vehicles.
7. It is intended that the County Durham Parking Policies document be reviewed upon the production of the first North East Combined Authority Transport Plan which is currently due to be adopted in 2017.

Recommendation

8. That the Council adopted the County Durham Parking Policies Document.

Background Papers

County Durham Parking Policies Document.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

Civil parking enforcement operation has financial implications which are reported on an annual basis in the Council's Parking Account. Any surpluses generated through civil parking enforcement will be invested by the Council in parking, public transport or highway improvements in accordance with the Council's priorities.

Staffing –

None.

Equality and Diversity –

No adverse impacts, the County Durham Parking Policies document has been subject to EQIA.

Accommodation –

None.

Crime and Disorder –

None.

Human Rights –

None.

Consultation –

This is a revision of the previous Parking Strategy document which takes account of changes to government guidance and general operational requirements. All new or amended policies have been subject to separate consultation.

Procurement –

None.

Disability Discrimination Act –

No adverse impacts, the County Durham Parking Policies document has been subject to EQIA.

Legal Implications –

The policies are consistent with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the guidance issued.