

North Northamptonshire Council

Draft Car Parking Strategy 2026-2036

Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the Council developing a Car Parking Strategy?

The draft strategy aims to create a consistent approach to parking across North Northamptonshire following local government reorganisation in 2021. It seeks to improve the customer experience, reduce congestion, support town centres, invest in parking infrastructure and ensure parking is managed fairly and transparently.

Will all Council car parks become charged?

No. The draft strategy proposes a mix of parking arrangements. Some car parks may be subject to charges, some may have restrictions such as time limits, and others may remain free.

Why is the Council considering introducing charges at some currently free car parks?

Evidence collected by the Council suggests parking demand varies significantly between locations. Charges or restrictions may help improve turnover of spaces, reduce long-stay parking and make spaces available to more users where demand is high.

Are on-street parking charges being proposed?

No. The draft strategy does not currently contain proposals to introduce on-street parking charges. Existing on-street parking arrangements will continue to be reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate and effective.

What will happen to any income generated from parking charges?

Income must be used in accordance with law. It will be used to maintain and improve Council car parks, support public transport, contribute to highway improvements and invest in parking infrastructure such as payment systems, signage and improved car park surfaces and white lining.

Will cash payments still be available?

Yes. While the draft strategy proposes increasing contactless, cashless and app-based payment options, it also commits to retaining cash payment options.

Will Blue Badge holders still receive concessions?

The draft strategy proposes that Blue Badge holders will continue to receive up to two hours' free parking in eligible Council car parks subject to the relevant terms and conditions. The strategy also commits to improving accessibility and increasing compliance with recognised accessibility standards.

How does the strategy support disabled people and those with additional access needs?

The draft strategy includes proposals to improve accessibility, improve accessible parking provision, retain multiple payment methods, improve signage and information, and consider recognised standards such as Inclusive Mobility, Park Access and Park Mark.

Will Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras be used to issue parking fines?

No. The strategy makes clear that under current legislation councils cannot use ANPR alone to enforce parking contraventions. Any Penalty Charge Notice must still be issued by a Civil Enforcement Officer in accordance with statutory requirements.

What are the environmental benefits of the strategy?

The strategy supports the Council's carbon reduction ambitions by encouraging sustainable travel, expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure, supporting active travel and investigating opportunities for renewable energy generation in car parks.

Will more electric vehicle charging points be installed?

Yes. The strategy proposes increasing EV charging provision, supported by Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.

What will happen to residential parking permit schemes?

Existing residential permit schemes will be reviewed to ensure they continue to meet local needs. The strategy proposes a more consistent approach across North Northamptonshire and greater use of digital permits.

Will residents and businesses be consulted before changes are introduced?

Yes. Changes requiring Traffic Regulation Orders will be subject to statutory consultation processes, including public engagement and opportunities for feedback before implementation.

How can I have my say?

You can share your views by completing the [online consultation questionnaire](#). Alternative methods of responding are also set out within the [consultation materials](#).

What will happen with my response?

All consultation responses will be reviewed and considered alongside other evidence and data. Feedback will help inform the final draft strategy before it is considered through the Council's decision-making process.