



# Proposed parking charges Consultation

**Closing date: 14 January 2016**

The Council is proposing to make a number of changes to the charges and operation of its car parks. Use this document to find out more about the proposals and send a response to the consultation.

**“Allerdale – a great place to live, work and visit”**

## **Parking services consultation 2016/17 budget**

### **The funding pressures**

Every year the Council has to agree a balanced budget – this means that we must balance our income against our expenditure. Government grants, which used to make up a significant proportion of our income, have been reducing year on year. The simple fact is that as we receive less and less income from central government then we either need to make savings, which can mean cuts to services, or find new sources of income to make our budget balance.

To account for this ongoing decline in income from central government we project that we must close a financial gap of £3.47million over four financial years until 2018/19. In 2015/16 our budget was £15.28million, so you can see the size of the challenge.

We have some tough decisions to make about the level of service we can continue to provide and how we can generate more income. Our aim is to be as efficient as possible whilst maintaining a level of service our customers and partners expect and deserve. Since 2012 we have saved £3.9m through cuts to staffing and management costs, increasing income we generate, and making services and processes more efficient. But we still have to do more to find savings or increase our income to make the budget balance.

### **Looking at our parking charges**

We looked at our parking charges and the conclusions make up part of our budget for 2016/17.

When considering our proposals we took several things into account:

- Our charges have not changed for nearly four years and any increase will bring us into line with other Cumbrian authorities.
- We wanted to consider the different needs and issues in relation to each town, to ensure the carparks are well used and people do not have to wait for a space.
- The feedback we get from business is that they want customers to stay in the town centres longer. Therefore our proposals are designed to encourage the use of long-stay car parks and increase the number of people who have the opportunity to use our short-stay car parks (increasing the “churn”).
- We wanted to invest to save and provide a better service to the customer through new machines.
- These proposals will only affect those car parks which are owned by the Council. Car parks managed by Allerdale Borough Council on behalf of other organisations are not included in these changes.

As a result we propose to:

- Invest in new parking machines to the tune of £350,000 so that we can offer a more effective service to the customer and allow them more ways to pay
- Increase charges in some car-parks, and for some charging periods, to ensure we have enough revenue to continue to pay for essential services and cover costs. Charges in some car parks are to be reduced. Coach-parking charges shall also be increased.

- Change maximum stay rates in some car parks to increase the amount of people who can use it to park.
- Change charging periods to include an overnight charge in the car parks
- Increase charges for permits to bring them into line with fees charged by other Cumbrian authorities; and to temporarily suspend and review the low-pay permit

Before answering the questions please look at the tariff sheet provided.

### **How to respond**

You can make your comments in this consultation response document. Please send it back to: Parking Services (Consultation), Allerdale Borough Council, Allerdale House, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3YJ

You can also respond to this consultation online: [www.allerdale.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/consultation)

Please could all responses be returned before 14 January 2016.

### **Consultation questions**

**1. Please see the tariff chart provided which details the proposed new charges. You will see that some have gone up whilst some have been reduced or removed altogether.**

Do you agree with the charging proposals?

## **Proposed permit changes**

**2. We are proposing changes to the charges of our permits, which can be used in long-stay car parks. This will raise the price of an all town permit to £500 a year, or £1.37 a day. These prices are largely comparable, or in some cases cheaper, than those charged by other Cumbrian authorities.**

Full details can be found in the tariff sheet.

Do you agree with the proposed changes?

**Proposed maximum stay**

**3. We are looking to reduce the maximum stay period from three hours to two hours in our short stay car parks (see the tariff sheet provided). These car-parks are popular and these changes are designed to increase the amount of people who can use them, and to encourage people to use long-stay car parks and therefore stay in the town longer.**

Do you agree with these proposals?

### **Proposed charging hours**

**4. We are proposing to extend the charging period during the day from the current times of 8.00am-7.00pm to a new charging period of 7.00am-9.00pm.**

Do you agree with these proposals?

### **Overnight charge proposals**

**5. We are looking to introduce an overnight stay rate of £2.00 to all car parks where charges are applicable.**

Do you agree with these proposals?

## **New machines**

**6. We are proposing to introduce new machines which will allow other ways to pay for parking, such as by card and by phone. These new machines may also allow for “overpayments” where the driver would get proportionately extra time to park if you put in more money than is required.**

Do you agree with these proposals?

**7. Do you have any further comments on our proposals?**





Allerdale Borough Council  
Allerdale House  
Workington  
Cumbria CA14 3YJ  
Tel: 01900 702702  
Fax: 01900 702590  
Email: [car.parks@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:car.parks@allerdale.gov.uk)  
[www.allerdale.gov.uk](http://www.allerdale.gov.uk)

November 2015

**Please phone (01900 702 702) if you would like a copy of this document in a different format**