

Parking Fees & Charges

Response to Call-in of Executive Decision taken
24th March 2025 to increase parking fees and
charges

Summary of revised parking fees and charges (1)

- City centre tariffs to increase by ~25% for on street Pay & Display and off-street car parking
- Higher increase for Victoria Park car park to match other city centre car parks
- Discounted evening rate (Night Owl tariff) in car parks will be discontinued
- Parks car park tariffs will be increased by 10% (not 25%)

Summary of revised parking fees and charges (2)

- Decision (made in 2022/23) to charge for street P&D parking on Sundays will be implemented
- Blue badge holders can still park for free
- The 10p convenience fee for paying by phone will be absorbed into the new tariffs
- Aim is for new fees and charges to commence on 12th May
- Annual review of charges to take account of inflation

The need to raise charges

- Inflationary cost pressures in CCTV monitoring, 3rd party services, energy costs and infrastructure maintenance
- Cost pressures have been largely absorbed by Parking Service over a decade
- Major capital investment in recent years have improved LCC car parks to provide safer parking
- All Council car parks have Park Mark status for safe parking (a rigorous assessment by specially trained Police assessors)
- Will be only second price increase since 2014

Financial case

- Financial position of Council requires difficult choices to be made, all services asked to find savings
- Annual saving of £1.1m of which £0.5m will cover service cost pressures
- Savings will also contribute £0.6m towards 3-year savings target of £4m for Planning, Development and Transportation
- Income from parking charges is reinvested into parking, highways and transport-related services
- Demand for parking remains strong, private operators are increasing their charges

Proposed Parking Tariffs

Haymarket Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£4.00	£5.00
4 hours	£5.00	£6.30
6 hours	£7.00	£8.80
9 hours	£10.00	£12.50
12 hours	£12.00	£15.00

Newarke Street Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£4.00	£5.00
4 hours	£5.00	£6.30
6 hours	£7.00	£8.80
9 hours	£10.00	£12.50
12 hours	£12.00	£15.00

Upper Brown Street Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£4.00	£5.00
4 hours	£5.00	£6.30

Dover Street Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£4.00	£5.00
4 hours	£5.00	£6.30
6 hours	£7.00	£8.80
9 hours	£10.00	£12.50
12 hours	£12.00	£15.00

Proposed Parking Tariffs

Abbey Park Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
2 hours	£2.00	£2.20
3 hours	£3.00	£3.30
4 hours	£4.00	£4.40
12 hours	£9.00	£9.90

St Margarets Pastures Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
2 hours	£2.00	£2.20
3 hours	£3.00	£3.30
4 hours	£4.00	£4.40
12 hours	£9.00	£9.90
Sunday/BH Up to 3 Hours	£1.00	£1.10
Sunday/ BH Up to 6 Hours	£3.00	£3.30

Victoria Park Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£1.00	£1.30
2 hours	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£3.00	£5.00
4 hours	£4.00	£6.30
9 hours	N/A	£12.50
12 hours	£9.00	£15.00

Watermead Park Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
2 hour	£2.00	£2.20
3 hours	£3.00	£3.30
4 hours	£4.00	£5.40
12 hours	£9.00	£9.90

Proposed Parking Tariffs

Phoenix Car Park		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
3 hours	£4.00	£5.00
4 hours	£5.00	£6.30
6 hours	£7.00	£8.80
9 hours	£10.00	£12.50
12 hours	£12.00	£15.00

On-Street Pay & Display Bays		
Time Band	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
City Centre Inner 1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
City Centre Inner 2 hours	£3.50	£4.40
City Centre Outer 2 hour	£2.00	£2.50
City Centre Outer 3 hours	£2.50	£3.10
City Centre Long Stay 3 hours	£2.00	£2.50
City Centre Long Stay 10.5 hours	£8.00	£10.00
London Rd Outer 1 hour	£1.00	£1.30
London Rd Outer 2 hours	£2.00	£2.50
London Rd Outer 6.5 hours	£7.00	£8.80
London Rd Inner 0.5 hours	£1.00	£1.30
London Rd Inner 1 hour	£2.00	£2.50
London Rd Inner 2 hours	£3.00	£3.80
London Rd Inner 3 hours	£4.00	£5.00

Benchmarking with other councils

Headline Benchmarking Detail	Defined Comparison (Comparable Car Park or On-Street Location)
Leicester's Council-Operated tariffs remain up to 60% lower than private sector rates in Derby and Leicester	3-hour stay: £5.00 (Leicester Council) vs £8.85–£11.85 (Private Sector)
Leicester Charges up to 45% Less for 12-Hour Stays Compared to Nottingham's Broad Marsh and Trinity CPs	£9.90–£15 (Leicester) vs £18.00 (Nottingham Council CPs)
Short-stay parking in Leicester is among the cheapest across comparable Midland cities	1-hour parking from £1.30 to £2.50 (Leicester) vs £2.40–£5.50 (Coventry, Derby, Nottingham, Private Sector)
Leicester evening parking tariffs are significantly lower than Nottingham and Derby equivalents	4-hours parking: £4.40 - £6.30 (Leicester) vs £8.00–£10.00 (Nottingham), £8.95 (Derby Private Sector)
Leicester's 2-Hour tariff in our car parks offers better value than equivalent council tariffs in Nottingham, Coventry, and Derby	£2.20–£2.50 (Leicester) vs £2.20–£5.50 (Other Neighbouring Councils)
Tariffs apply on all days, including Sundays. This is in line with neighbouring cities approach.	1-hour parking from £1.30 to £2.50 (Leicester) vs £2.40–£5.50 (Coventry, Derby, Nottingham, Private Sector)

Call in details (1)

- *'We, the undersigned, wish to 'Call-In' the decision made by the City Mayor to increase council on street and off street parking charges. **Raising parking fees will disproportionately impact people on low-incomes, many of whom are already struggling with rising living costs and increased council tax payments.** Since the Labour government took office, financial pressures have increased significantly, with last week's Spring Statement bringing further economic strain with reduced help and support. Increasing parking fees will add yet another burden to those who can least afford it.*

Response (1) - Support for People on Low Incomes

- One third (33%) of Leicester households do not own a car, well above England average 24%
- Bus travel is comparatively affordable for people on low income
- Fare cap £3, concessionary bus passengers travel for free
- Park & Ride buses run every 15 mins, 7am to 7pm, Mon to Sat
- P&R tickets: Individual Day £3.50, Group Day £4, Senior/disabled £1
- Hop! - Free City Centre Circular bus every 10 mins
- High quality cycling and walking routes enable free travel into city centre
- Blue badge holders park for free at all times

Call in details (2)

- *Beyond harming residents, these proposed changes will have a wider negative impact on the city centre's economy. The reason for this is clear. Leicester's high parking charges are literally driving business and customers away to Fosse Park, which offers free, convenient and safe parking and is just a few minutes away from the city centre. If the council considered reducing parking fees it could actually see an increase in revenue. Attracting more visitors to Leicester would be good for local businesses and it would help to revitalise the city centre. Yet the council seems intent on doing the opposite, making it increasingly unaffordable to park in Leicester, which will result in further economic decline, with more businesses and customers moving to Fosse Park.*

Response (2) – Impact of City Centre's Economy

- Demand and occupancy levels are very high in Council car parks
- We remain price competitive compared to other parking providers
- Many car parks operated by private operators do not offer the same quality provision
- Of 11,200 off-street, car park spaces in the city centre, Council operates just 1,750 (16%). Majority operated by private sector
- Central location offers more and easier options for access by bus, cycling and walking
- Income from parking fees supports highway and traffic management services critical to support local businesses and economic growth

Call in details (3)

- *We also oppose the proposed removal of the "Night Owl" reduced parking rates, as this would harm the nighttime economy. Instead of deterring evening visitors, the council should be encouraging them. Raising parking fees at this time is a bad decision which will hurt residents, businesses and the city's economy. We respectfully request that the council reconsider the proposals to increase charges and instead starts to adopt policies that will boost investment and encourage economic growth, rather than pricing people out of the city centre.'*

Response (3) –Evening Parking & Night-time economy

- Evening parking on city centre streets will remain free to help support the night-time economy
- Car Parks will also remain open in the evenings
- Car Parks provide a secure parking environment in the evenings
- There is a cost to manage and provide car parks in the evenings
- Unlike Fosse Park, the city centre delivers much more than retail
- Leicester city centre offers a diverse retail, cultural and leisure visitor experience to bolster the night-time economy, for example the recent Light Up Leicester festival attracted 93,500 visitors to the City

Recommendation for Scrutiny

- Scrutiny to Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn
- Agreement for withdrawal:
 - Will stop the call in process
 - Call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council
 - Original decision will take immediate effect without amendment