



CAR PARKING STRATEGY

September 2009

1. Provide a range of good quality public car parking facilities which meet the needs of the whole community.
2. Recognise the different characteristics of the main population centres of Blaby District and liaise with key partners (business, local councils, access groups etc) in providing car-parking services appropriate to local circumstances.
3. Seek to support the vitality of population centres and local businesses through the provision and management of appropriate car parking, while recognising that car parking provision can be an important tool to help manage traffic in urban areas.
4. Reduce burden on the taxpayer and shift the cost of car parking provision towards the service users and manage the Council's car parking assets in a cost effective manner.
5. Develop effective communication with customers in order to promote the service and to gather information to inform the development of the service.

Council car parks include those located in major centres, villages, leisure centres, recreation grounds and open spaces.

Policy Framework

1. Parking management should be an essential component of a strategy aimed at reducing unnecessary journeys by car.
2. An adequate supply of conveniently located short stay parking spaces is fundamental to the vitality and viability of the business and population centres throughout Blaby District.
3. Parking spaces allocated for long-stay use should be in less convenient locations, such as on the periphery of centres.
4. The supply, location and pricing of long-stay parking should be supportive of policies to discourage commuting wholly by car.
5. Public car parks should be progressively improved to ensure the delivery of a high standard of service to the community and visitors, with enhanced safety and security.
6. Car park charges and parking permit implementation and allocation should be reviewed at regular intervals.
7. The regulation of on-street parking should be reviewed to ensure effective enforcement and the protection of residents, visitors and business' parking needs. This should be undertaken by working with Leicestershire County Council which is responsible for regulating on-street parking.
8. Parking management plans should ensure a sufficient supply of short stay spaces to meet the needs of the local catchment areas served by each main centre.
9. Parking policies should be co-ordinated with transport policies to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the road network consistent with environmental objectives.
10. Changes to parking policies should be monitored to assess the impact of these changes on neighbouring business, retail and residential areas.

Strategy Objectives and Activities

Objective 1 – Ensure that the car park service is developed and delivered on the basis of good information on car park usage and customer needs.

Activities

- a) Review the adequacy of data collated on customer satisfaction and car park use.
- b) Undertake regular surveys to establish user patterns, needs and expectations.
- c) Monitor levels of crime and social mis-behaviour in car parks.
- d) Be responsive to the impact on the District's business from retail parks and retail and business centres in neighbouring districts.

Objective 2 - Ensure that car park services are being carried out to a high standard in terms of economy, efficiency, safety and effectiveness.

Activities

- a) Review and determine appropriate standards for the maintenance, design, provision of ancillary facilities and equipment.
- b) Establish satisfactory safety standards for BDC car parks and implement a phased programme to reach the requirements of the Park Mark Award scheme.
- c) Implement a fully funded regular maintenance and inspection programme to ensure agreed standards are achieved.

Objective 3 – Maintain a charging structure that maximises the use of existing car parks, whilst managing a balance between economic, environmental and traffic management objectives.

Activities

- a) Agree and keep under review a structured charging policy for Council public car parks.
- b) Make provision for season tickets.
- c) Make provision for residents' and other parking permits.

Objective 4 – Ensure adequate provision for those with particular requirements.

Activities

- a) To make adequate provision of parking for the disabled.
- b) Review the need for lorry and bus provision within car parks.
- c) Extend the provision of well-designed, secure cycle parks in council car parks.
- d) Establish a policy concerning the use of car parks for purposes other than public car parking for example public or community events.

Objective 5 – Improve information for customers.

Activities

- a) Update and modernise the provision of car park signage.
- b) Make available comprehensive and up to date information on the car park service through the Council's website and other IT and more traditional means of literature.
- c) Review road direction signage for off-street car parks with Leicestershire County Council.
- d) Explore provision of visitor information at key car parks in association with parish and town councils.

Objective 6 – Provide a co-ordinated enforcement service for both “on street” and “off street” situations.

Activities

- a) 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.

Objective 7 – Continue to audit and review the level of parking availability in Blaby District and plan accordingly.

Activities

- a) Undertake a review of Council car park stocks in order to identify the level of demand and any deficiencies or improvements so required.
- b) Review short and long stay parking allocations for Council public car parks.
- c) Consider the implications of current Government directives that limit the number of parking spaces associated with new developments and prevent developer's contributions being sought for new car parking development.
- d) Review the relationship between provisions of the service in main centres with that of the smaller villages.
- e) Keep under review and proactively pursue development opportunities that increase the overall level of public parking provision for the District.
- f) Commission a study on the likely increase in car parking need in the District over the short medium and long term.

Objective 8 – Ensure that parking issues are fully considered in the development of Local Transport Plans, the Local Development Framework and other strategic transport policies affecting Blaby District.

Activities

- a) Consider whether continuing to apply the District Council's current maximum parking standards is in the best interests of Blaby District residents. (NB. Standards are already adopted in the Local Plan).
- b) Work with Leicestershire County Council to examine the desirability for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs).
- c) Encourage local businesses to develop Travel Plans.
- d) Encourage alternatives to car use in population centres through the local plan etc.
- e) Establish Parking Management Plans in conjunction with Leicestershire County Council.
- f) 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.

- g) Work with organisations that represent interest groups to further the objectives of the Council for the service.