



Proposed Braintree District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2023

Statement of Reasons

The reasons for making this proposed Off-Street Parking Places Order are to:-

Update the car parking tariffs, including pay & display, permits and season ticket prices, and revise the structure of the commuter car park tariffs in Braintree District Council's car parks. The tariffs were last reviewed in 2018 but have not been substantially increased since 2014. The increase in charges is to ensure the Council remains competitive with other Essex authorities and generates enough revenue to offset the increased operating and enforcement costs whilst still offering value for money and continuing to support the local economy.

Move to a cashless-only system of payment in Braintree District Council's pay & display car parks. This offers greater flexibility and convenience to the customer and is the preferred method of payment for the majority of Council car park users. Cashless parking will prevent theft and discourage vandalism to the ticket machines which will improve reliability and convenience to customers. It will also reduce operating costs as the Council will not need to pay for the collection and management of cash from the ticket machines. The increased use of technology supports cashless payment options.

Introduce flexible tickets which can be purchased in a block of 90 virtual day passes for the same cost as a quarterly season ticket and used over the course of the financial year (1 April – 31 March). These passes are valid in Braintree District Council's car parks where season tickets are available and will provide greater flexibility where, for example, working patterns have changed since the covid-19 pandemic.

Allow free parking for blue badge holders in all Braintree District Council pay and display car parks provided that the disabled person's badge is on display. This is to encourage greater use of the disabled bays in the car parks and ensure that there is consistency with other Essex authorities.

Increase the tariff for customers of the Travelodge, Victoria Square, Braintree in line with inflation as provided for in the lease documentation.

Include electric vehicle (EV) charging bays and associated time restrictions to Easton Road car park to allow for future provision of EV charging points in this car park. Also, to include overnight rates to park EV vehicles in EV bays overnight in Station Approach and White Horse Lane car parks to bring these in line with other car parks.

Clarify and distinguish between permits and season tickets, permit holders generally have designated bays whereas season ticket holders do not.

The proposed Order does not make any other changes to the current Order.

For further information concerning any of these proposals please contact:

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