



Southampton City Council
Annual Parking Report 2020/21

Foreword

Southampton City Council's aim is to operate a parking environment that is fair and consistent. The parking charges in the City Centre and around the Hospital aim to create a turnover of parking for the benefit of all users and to boost the local economy. However, we have maintained our commitment to keeping parking charges at a reasonable level in comparison to similar authorities with no tariff increases implemented during the 2020/21 financial year.

The Civil Enforcement Team have continued to make effective use of the Camera Enforcement Car making regular frequent visits to school sites around the city to deter vehicles from being left on parking restrictions put in place for the safety of school children. The Penalty Charge Notices being issued has increased with officers paying particular attention to contraventions of double yellow lines and disabled parking bays.

The parking team continue to assist in managing Bus lane enforcement to increase the reliability of buses through the Shirley, along the Eastern approach (New Road and Northam Road) and at Vincent's Walk. Contraventions of bus lanes / bus gates have dropped significantly since this was introduced, meeting our objective of ensuring they are kept clear.

We have listened to feedback regarding the cleanliness of the car parks and continue to carry out regular cleaning during the day. We have now implemented overnight closures at all five of the multi-storey facilities to ensure they are not used for rough sleeping to the detriment of the parking environment.

The Council has continued to carry out consultations on new permit parking schemes across the City. As a result of this work, we have expanded the Zone 17 permit parking restrictions to include the off-street parking areas across the Golden Grove estate. Other areas consulted on during 2020/21 included the wider residential areas around the General Hospital and the University of Southampton.

The most significant challenge in 2020/21 for Southampton as a whole, was the Covid19 pandemic. The Council adapted quickly to these challenges and implemented measures to allow for the sudden change in parking behaviour that the pandemic brought about. This included suspending enforcement of permit parking areas while the first national lockdown was in effect. During the second lockdown, the Council later allow residents who lived in zones but were not normally eligible for permits to purchase a temporary permit. These measures allowed the affected residents to adhere to the Stay At Home guidance without being penalised.

Public Parking

The City Centre

Southampton City Council maintains 5 multi-storey car parks and 29 surface parks within the City Centre, which accommodate 4719 parking spaces. This constitutes approximately one third of the off-street parking capacity available to the public within the City Centre. All other off-street City Centre parking provision is managed by private operators. Toys R Us Car Park was managed by the Council on their behalf but since the closure of the store, the facility is no longer open and is now to be redeveloped.

The number of spaces for each City Council maintained car park are shown in the table below.

Multi-Storey Car Parks	Spaces
Bedford Place	289
Eastgate Street	709
Grosvenor Square	532
Marlands	810
West Park Road	506
Surface Car Parks	Spaces
Albion Place	52
Amoy Street	54
Ascupart Street	32
Bond Street	70
Castle Way	76
Civic Centre Forecourt	72
College Street	168
Commercial Road	19
Compton Walk	35
Crosshouse Hard	66
Gloucester Square	90
Grosvenor Square (North)	88
Handford Place	10
Harbour Parade	64
James Street	16
Kings Park Road	76
Mayflower Park	229
Northam Road	24
Ordnance Road	40
Bargate Street (Shop Mobility)	17
Six Dials	72
Southampton Street	11
Southbrook Road North	27
Southbrook Road South	113
The Quays North	135
The Quays South	92
Trinity Road	23
Wilton Avenue	78
Wyndham Place	24

The City Council also manages all on-street parking within the City Centre. This by definition is any parking bay located on the public highway. There are approximately 1571 on-street parking bays currently located in the City Centre.

Parking Charges

As with most other urban Local Authorities, all Council owned parking within the City Centre is managed using parking charges to ensure turnover of vehicles within the parking bays.

The parking charges will vary depending on location, but the Council aims to maintain a variety of tariffs to suit different needs.

Parking charges for each car park and on-street parking location can be viewed via the link below;

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/roads-parking/parking/default.aspx>

Season Tickets

The Council also offers a variety of City Centre season tickets to reduce the cost of parking for frequent users. Some season tickets were developed specifically for residents who live within the pay and display zone, enabling them to resolve their parking needs without impacting on the underlying principle of maintaining vehicle turnover.

The City Centre Season Tickets that are currently available to the public can be viewed via the link below;

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/roads-parking/parking/season-tickets/>

The number of individual Season Tickets sold in 2016/17 is shown in the table below.

Season Ticket Type	Cost	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Any Time Season Ticket	£1200 p/a	165	863	872
Overnight Season Ticket	£150 p/a	2	10	6
Off Street Any Time Season Ticket*	£750 p/a	167	211	224
On Street Season Ticket Evenings*	£100 p/a	1	0	2
On Street Season Ticket Eve & Weekends*	£400 p/a	14	23	12
Zone A On Street Season Ticket**	£1000 p/a	48	47	56
	Totals	397	1154	1172

*City Centre Residents living within the Pay & Display Zone

**City Centre Residents living within Zone A

Electric Vehicle Discount

The Council is currently offering a 90% discount on all Season Tickets for Electric Vehicle users. This is to encourage drivers to adopt this emerging technology for the benefit of air quality within the City Centre. The level of discount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

District Centres

The City Council also operates a limited number of car parks and on-street pay & display / limited waiting car parks in the District Centres.

These vary from 2 hour limited waiting facilities to 5 hours limited waiting with a charge for a longer stay. This is to attract shoppers to the District Centres while maintaining some turn over the course of the day.

Bitterne Car Parks	Spaces
Angel Crescent	119
Commerical Street	55
Lances Hill	74
West End Road	25
Whites Road	26
Portswood Car Parks	Spaces
Rayners Gardens	14
Westridge Road	83
Shirley Car Parks	Spaces
Cannon Street	42
Howard's Grove	47
Marlborough Road North	62
Marlborough Road South	91
Woolston Car Parks	Spaces
The Colonade	29
Oakbank Road	85
Woodley Road	45

Parking Income and Surplus

While the primary reason for implementing parking charges is to manage demand at various locations, this does result in revenue being generated for the Council. Pay & Display revenue is divided into On-Street and Off Street, with On Street Revenue hypothecated for transport and highway expenditure after costs are deducted. Off Street revenue is directed to the Council's general fund after costs are deducted.

Parking revenue, overall income and the surplus is shown in the table below. The full Parking Account can be seen in Appendix A.

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
On Street Revenue	£1.12M	£2.51M	£2.57M
Off Street Revenue	£1.58M	£5.39M	£5.39M
Total On Street Income (including revenue)	£2.96M	£4.89M	£4.85M
Total Off Street Income (including revenue)	£2.91M	£7.16M	£7.24M
On Street Surplus (after deduction of costs)	£0.33M	£2.15M	£2.17M
Off Street Surplus (after deduction of costs)	-£0.22M	£3.80M	£3.81M

The reduction in revenue for 2020/21 is of course significant and can be ascribed to the Covid19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown periods that were put in place between April '20 to July '20 and November '20 to April '21.

Many City Centre retail/restaurant businesses were closed for much of this period while many people who would usually have commuted to work in an office environment were working from home. The amount of people visiting the city or driving to work was therefore greatly reduced with a significant impact on use of parking facilities.

Resident Parking Zones

Permit Parking Schemes

While public highway is not designated for any one user, it is recognised that it can be frustrating for residents who do not have access to off road parking if the road space in the vicinity of their properties is frequently taken up by drivers who do not live in the area.

This usually occurs close to areas of high employment (e.g. the City Centre) and/or places that attract a significant number of visitors (e.g. the General Hospital and the University). In these circumstances, legislation granted under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, allow Local Authorities to introduce Permit Parking Restrictions.

Southampton currently has 21 Permit Parking Zones introduced for the benefit of residents. In all cases, the zones were introduced because residents had requested them and it is currently Council policy that permit parking restrictions will only be introduced where a significant majority of respondents to a consultation are in favour of the proposal.

Southampton's Permit Parking Zones, the year in which they were first introduced and the broad reasons why they were introduced, are outlined below;

Zone	Location	Year	Reason
1	The Polygon	1972	Manage City Centre commuter parking
2	Woolston	1975	Manage parking by workers at Vosper Thorneycroft
3	Woolston		
4	Newtown/Nicholstown	1977	Manage City Centre commuter parking
5	Bevois Town	1978	Manage City Centre commuter parking
6	Highfield	1993	Manage University parking
7	Coxford	1996	Manage Hospital parking
8	Freemantle	2000	Manage City Centre commuter parking
9	Glen Eyre	2000	Manage University parking
10	Flowers Estate	2000	
11	Hampton Park	2000	
12	Highfield	2000	
13	Bitterne Manor	2001	Manage Stadium Event parking (only in operation on Stadium Event Days)
14	Itchen	2001	
15	Northam	2001	
16	Shirley	2003	Manage District Centre parking
17	Golden Grove		Manage estate parking
18	Rockstone Place		Manage City Centre parking
19	Cemetery Road*		Cemetery workers permit scheme
20	Kingsland Estate	2010	Manage estate parking
21	Guildhall Square*		Guild Hall events permit scheme
22	Holyrood Estate	2010	Manage estate parking
23	Alexandra Quay	2015	Manage commuter parking
24	Hollybrook Cemetery*	2016	Cemetery workers permit scheme

*Non-resident permit parking schemes

Resident Parking Permits

There is a cost to implementing, maintaining, administering and enforcing permit parking schemes. The Council currently covers this cost by charging a nominal amount of £30 per permit. Some Zones are charged more where a) parking is limited and there is a greater need to manage the number of vehicles or b) where the permit scheme has a small number of properties and there is an increased need to cover the set up and enforcement costs. Permits in Zones 13-14 are issued free of charge as the costs of the schemes are covered by the Stadium.

It should be noted that some other Authorities charge significantly more for parking permits as they place a greater emphasis on managing the number of vehicles on the highway. Furthermore, some Authorities have imposed permit parking schemes on residents, whereas in Southampton, schemes are currently only implemented if residents have requested them and a significant majority are in favour of the proposals.

The number of resident permits (including temporary permits & visitor permits) issued is shown in the table below.

Zone	Location	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
1	The Polygon	623	722	740
2	Woolston	53	66	62
3	Woolston	170	193	185
4	Newtown/Nicholstown	1245	1488	1546
5	Bevois Town	815	969	991
6	Highfield	485	490	524
7	Coxford	998	1133	1136
8	Freemantle	338	373	375
9	Glen Eyre	335	343	381
10	Flowers Estate	553	570	606
11	Hampton Park	359	368	385
12	Highfield	315	342	342
13	Bitterne Manor	243	297	203
14	Itchen	146	190	202
15	Northam	295	419	406
16	Shirley	348	393	346
17	Golden Grove	289	6	6
18	Rockstone Place	15	30	37
20	Kingsland Estate	78	60	81
22	Holyrood Estate	259	219	232
23	Alexandra Quay	48	53	65
-	Annual Visitor Permits	1401	1398	1352
	Totals	9411	10125	10203

The Covid19 pandemic had a noticeable effect on the number of permits issued with areas traditionally occupied by student dwellings seeing a reduction in permit applications.

The Council did allow residents not normally eligible for a permit to apply for 3 Month Temporary permits to account for the stay at home orders that were in place during the two lockdowns periods. As a consequence, the number of Temporary permits issued increased from 965 in 2019/20 to 1,121 in 2020/21.

The only significant changes to the Resident Parking Zones saw Zone 17 restrictions expanded to cover the off-street parking areas of the Golden Grove estate. Other consultations carried out were as follows;

- Additional permit parking restrictions around the General Hospital and University of Southampton

Parking Enforcement

Our team of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) monitor compliance of a range of parking controls. Where a contravention appears to have occurred they will seek compliance through education with motorists to the parking regulations and restrictions. This may include the serving of a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

In addition to issuing Penalty Charge Notices, Civil Enforcement Officers also report any defective signs to be repaired or replaced and lines to be refreshed or re-lined as well as fulfilling an ambassadorial role for the council. Since October 2013, CEOs have had the power to inspect blue badges (disabled badges) and seize them in specific circumstances.

To ensure we enforce fairly, efficiently and effectively, the City is divided into flexible 'beats'. Visit requirements are determined by the levels of compliance and the restrictions in place, in support of the aims of the council towards wellbeing and safety of road users and to meet the expectations of residents, business and visitors to the city. We also endeavour to respond to notifications from the public where parking restrictions are not being observed. These are supplemented by special enforcement requests during events such as the annual Southampton Boat show, football matches and other major events in the city.

Depending on the severity of the contravention, a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) may be issued at the higher rate of £70 or the lower rate of £50. If the PCN is paid within 14 days the charge will be reduced by 50%, resulting in a higher rate of £35 and a lower rate of £25. If a PCN remains unpaid after the reduced fee period the increased charge may apply.

A summary of PCNs issued is shown below;

PCN Summary	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Number of higher level PCNs issued	22,427	27,880	27,257
Number of lower level PCNs issued	23,391	38,261	39,501
Total number of PCNs issued	45,743	66,141	66,758

The Covid19 pandemic again had a significant impact on parking enforcement. The Council determined to suspend enforcement of Pay and Display restrictions and Permit Parking Restrictions during the first lockdown between April '20 and June '20 to account for the sudden changes in driver behaviour i.e. people staying at home. However, the Civil Enforcement Team were identified as key workers and worked throughout the pandemic to enforce yellow lines, disabled bays, zig zag markings, taxi ranks, bus stops, loading bays etc, for the purposes of keeping the highway clear for other key workers and vulnerable users and maintaining road safety.

The impact of this can be seen in the table above where the decrease in higher level PCNs (e.g. infringements of double yellow lines and disabled bays) was not as significant as lower level PCNs (e.g. failing to display a Pay and Display ticket).

Once the Council had put appropriate policies in place (e.g. allowing residents not eligible for a permit to purchase temporary permits) then enforcement of permit parking and pay and display restrictions was reinstated.

The number of PCNs issued against each contravention is shown in the tables below;

Contraventions at the lower rate of £50

Code	Contravention Description	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
5	Parked after the expiry of paid for time	1,509	3,357	3,382
6	Parked without clearly displaying a valid pay & display ticket	5,694	7,919	6,883
7	Parked with payment made to extend the stay beyond the initial time ('meter feeding')	1	15	11
19	Parked in a residents or shared use parking place or zone displaying an invalid permit, voucher or pay & display ticket	1,094	1,452	1,397
22	Re- parked in the same parking place within one hour of leaving	272	405	389
24	Not parked correctly within the markings of the bay or space	585	813	1,158
30	Parked for longer than permitted	7,789	10,048	10,360
80	Parked for longer than the maximum period	314	428	335
82	Parked after the expiry of time paid for in a pay & display car park	961	2,783	2,773
83	Parked in a pay & display car park without clearly displaying a valid pay and display ticket	3,780	10,052	12,026
84	Parked with additional payment made to extend the stay beyond time first purchased	15	41	21
86	Parked beyond the bay markings	331	876	755
90	Re-parked within one hour of leaving a bay space in a car park	7	14	11

Contraventions at the higher rate of £70

Code	Contravention Description	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
1	Parked in a restricted street during prescribed hours	9,390	12,299	12,235
2	Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in forces	552	778	685
12	Parked in a resident or shared use parking place or zone without clearly displaying either a permit, voucher or pay & display ticket	8,461	9,349	9,177
16	Parked in a permit space or zone without clearly displaying a permit	77	210	265
21	Parked wholly or partly in a suspended bay or space	5	16	11
23	Parked in a parking place or area not designated for that class of vehicle	376	579	446
25	Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	161	346	286
26	Parked in a special enforcement area more than 50cm from the edge of the carriageway and not within a designated parking space	98	184	219
27	Parked in a special enforcement area adjacent to a dropped footway	658	664	831

40	Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without clearly displaying a valid disabled person's badge.	2,167	2,684	2,336
45	Parked on a taxi rank	115	146	79
46	Stopped where prohibited	8	20	75
47	Parked on a restricted bus top/stand	98	104	281
48	Stopped in a restricted area outside a school	73	99	225
49	Parked wholly or partly on cycle track or lane	5	-	-
62	Parked with one or more wheels on or over a footpath or any part of a road other than a carriageway	2	3	8
71	Parked in an electric vehicles' charging place during restricted hours without charging	19	59	77
85	Parked in a permit bay without clearly displaying a valid permit	17	59	32
87	Parked in a disabled person's parking space without clearly displaying a valid disabled person's badge	71	148	126
89	Vehicle parked exceeds maximum weight or height or length permitted in the area	-	1	1
91	Parked in an area not designated for that class of vehicle	5	58	57
99	Stopped on a pedestrian crossing or crossing area marked by zigzags	69	73	75

Camera Car Enforcement

2017 saw the introduction of the Camera Enforcement Car which largely is used to monitor parking outside of schools to deter vehicles contravening parking restrictions that have been put in place to improve safety for school children. A secondary use is to monitor other no stopping restrictions such bus stops/stands which are frequently blocked by other vehicles at some locations. 2021 also saw the introduction of fixed Camera sites outside some schools where contravention of zig zag markings is highest

In the 2020/21 financial year, 201 Penalty Charge Notices were issued via the Camera Car or Fixed Cameras to vehicles in contravention of restrictions outside of schools. A further 199 Penalty Charge Notices were issued to vehicles in contravention of bus stops/stands.

Parking Representations

A penalty charge notice can be challenged if the motorist believes that it has been issued unfairly or if they believe that there are mitigating circumstances. Our in-house Representations Team will consider a written challenge/ representation and will respond formally in writing. Details of how to challenge a PCN can be found on the reverse side of the PCN issued. These can also be found on our website.

There are two stages of challenge/representation:

1. An informal challenge/representation is where correspondence is received by us after the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice, but before the service of the Notice to Owner.
2. A formal challenge/representation is correspondence received by us within 28 days from the date of service of the Notice to Owner.

It is only the registered owner/keeper of the vehicle who can make a formal challenge/representation.

Challenges/ representation may be submitted to the council at both informal and formal stages of the process. If a formal challenge is rejected, information on how an appeal can be made to the independent adjudication service (the Traffic Penalty Tribunal) will be provided. This service cannot adjudicate on whether or not the Council took the "correct" decision in response to an appeal. It can only consider whether or not the contravention occurred; the notice was properly and correctly issued; that the regulation order is properly made and signed; and other legal matters.

Information on how to challenge a PCN can be found here:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/roads-parking/parking/parking-fines/>

A summary of the outcome of the Penalty Charge Notices is shown in the table below;

PCN Summary	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Total number of PCNs issued	44,779	66,141	66,758
Number of PCNs paid*	23,675	41,997	42,937
Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation*	1,002	1,526	2,009
Number of PCNs written off for other reasons*	4,912	8,237	8,446

*Correct at time of publication - the state of each Penalty Charge Notice will change over time until it is resolved.

Abandoned Vehicles

The Council has a duty to remove abandoned vehicles on any open land or on any road to which the public have access, and can charge for their removal, storage (if appropriate) and disposal. We follow strict guidelines laid down by central government when removing abandoned vehicles.

It is also possible to give up a vehicle if it is no longer required under a 'project car clear' service where vehicle owners are able to surrender ownership of 'end of life' vehicles. They are removed from the highway and destroyed in accordance with environmental regulations at no charge to our customers.

As of October 2014, there are no paper tax discs issued to vehicles, however you can still check if a vehicle has valid tax at <https://www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk/>

More information regarding the decision to no longer need to display tax disks can be found on this website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vehicle-tax-changes>

If you would like to report a vehicle that you believe to be abandoned, then please visit our website for more information.

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/roads-parking/highway/abandoned-vehicles/default.aspx>

The number of vehicles reported as abandoned and removed is shown below;

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Number of vehicles reported as abandoned	1287	1303	1325
Number of vehicles reported for removal	93	181	175