

<b>Car Park Order 2026</b>	
<b>Executive Summary</b>	The proposed car parking charges for 2026 were agreed at Full Council on 17 December 2025. A new car parking order, consolidating the existing orders as well as introducing new charges has been advertised. The closing date for objections was 5 February 2026. In all 119 responses were received.
<b>Options considered</b>	Option 1 – Introduce the Car Parking Order 2026  Option 2 – Continue with the current car parking order.
<b>Consultation(s)</b>	The period for public objections ran from 15 January 2026 to 5 February 2026. The order was made available via our website. The notice of proposals was advertised in the local paper on 15 January 2026 and also displayed on every car park.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council introduces the Car Parking Order 2026 on 7 April 2026 as advertised.</li> <li>2. That the Council considers it appropriate to make the order subject to minor changes to wording within the Car Parking Order 2026.</li> </ol>
<b>Reasons for recommendations</b>	Car parking income represents a significant income source to the Council and as such has a substantial contribution to make to the Council's long term financial sustainability. The objections do not constitute substantive reasons for not bringing the order into force.
<b>Background papers</b>	Report to Full Council on 17 December 2025.

<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Cabinet member(s)</b>	Cllr Shires, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Estates & Property Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Daniel King, Assistant Director Finance & Assets

<b>Links to key documents:</b>	
Corporate Plan:	A strong, responsible and accountable Council
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Income raised from car parking is a significant funding stream for the Council and this will continue to be factored in as such when formulating the MTFS.
Council Policies & Strategies	

<b>Corporate Governance:</b>	
Is this a key decision	Yes
Has the public interest test been applied	N/A
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	17 December 2025 – Full Council No increase to standard car parking up to and including 24 hour tariffs but increase car parking fees for resort and coastal car in line with CPI inflation of 3.8%.

## 1. Introduction & Background.

- 1.1. Cabinet recommended the revised car parking charges for 2026/27 at the meeting on 1 December 2025 and Full Council approved these on 17 December 2025. Subsequently, the legal process of preparing and advertising the order took place. This order revokes all previous Off-street Parking places orders.
- 1.2. The statutory process for making a Car Parking Order requires a local authority to allow at least 21 days for any person to make a written representation to the draft proposals and to place the proposed order on deposit for public inspection during the objection period. At the end of the consultation period, a Council's duty is to 'consider all representations duly made and not withdrawn' and before making the final order a local authority may modify the order in consequence of the objections. This report provides Members with a summary of the objections.

## 2. Representations

- 2.1. The period for public objections ran from 15 January 2026 to 5 February 2026. The order was made available via our website. The notice of proposals was advertised in the local paper on 15 January 2026 and also displayed on every car park. In total 119 responses were received.
- 2.2. In order to assess the responses received from the consultation work has been undertaken to categorise these into themes of response received. However please note that a comment can fall into more than one category if it covers multiple issues; therefore, category percentages will sum to more than 100%. "None of the above" are items that don't fit any of your five categories.

Theme	Count	%
Hornbeam Road concerns	22	19%
Tourism & Local Trade	61	51%
Pricing	64	54%
Consultation	9	8%
Eating/cooking restrictions unclear or unreasonable	18	15%
None of the above	15	13%

- 2.3. The consultation responses are summarised below by theme, together with contextual officer comments intended to assist Members' understanding of the

issues raised. These comments provide factual and operational context only and do not seek to pre-empt Members' decision-making. The weight to be given to this context, when considered alongside the consultation responses received, is a matter for Members.

## **2.4. Hornbeam Road Concerns**

- 2.4.1. A significant number of responses specifically referenced Hornbeam Road and surrounding residential streets. Respondents reported that the introduction of parking charges has led to displacement parking into nearby roads, resulting in congestion, obstructed driveways, reduced visibility, and concerns over road safety. Several respondents stated that the car park itself is now under-used while pressure on surrounding streets has increased.
- 2.4.2. Officers acknowledge the strength of feeling expressed by residents in relation to Hornbeam Road and the impact that parking behaviour may have on the surrounding estate. It is also noted that on-street parking and wider highway matters are the responsibility of Norfolk County Council as the highway authority; however, the local impacts raised through consultation are drawn to Members' attention for consideration alongside this context. NNDC Car park usage and performance are monitored on an ongoing basis, and strategic decisions are taken on a car park-by-car-park basis to address operational issues. In the case of Hornbeam Road, the current Parking Order proposes a change to a fixed 24-hour charge of £3, with the intention of improving utilisation of the car park and reducing displacement parking. Any changes implemented through the Parking Order would continue to be monitored as part of routine car park performance review, with any future adjustments subject to further consideration in line with the Council's usual governance arrangements.

## **2.5. Tourism and Local Trade**

- 2.5.1. Many respondents raised concerns about the impact of parking charges on tourism and local businesses, particularly in coastal and town centre locations. Responses suggested that higher charges discourage visitors, shorten stays, and reduce footfall, with some respondents stating that visitors may choose alternative towns or retail parks with cheaper or free parking. Small independent businesses were cited as being particularly affected.
- 2.5.2. Officers note the concerns raised regarding the potential impact of parking charges on tourism, town centres, and local businesses. Members may wish to note that the Car Parking Order 2026 does not include increases to charges in the Council's standard car parks, and prices remain the same as described in the Car Parking Order 2025.

## **2.6. Pricing**

- 2.6.1. Pricing was one of the most frequently raised issues. Respondents expressed concern about the scale of increases, the affordability of charges for short stays, and the level of season ticket prices. Some respondents stated that the increases were disproportionate or above inflation, while others highlighted the structure of tariffs, including non-rounded charges and practical difficulties with payment.

2.6.2. Officers note the concerns raised regarding the level of parking charges. It is noted the proposed increases were developed having regard to changes in operating and maintenance costs over time and are broadly aligned with cumulative inflation (CPI) over the period since the last review.

## **2.7. Consultation**

2.7.1. A number of responses commented on the consultation process itself. These included concerns about the clarity of information provided, the length and complexity of the consultation documents, and a perceived lack of explanation or justification for the proposed changes. Some respondents felt that decisions had already been made prior to consultation.

2.7.2. Officers note the comments received regarding the consultation process and the clarity of information provided. The consultation was carried out in accordance with the statutory requirements for Parking Orders, and all representations received have been summarised and presented in this report. This feedback will be taken into account in the design of future consultations, with the aim of improving structure, readability, and accessibility where possible.

## **2.8. Eating / cooking restrictions unclear or unreasonable**

2.8.1. A smaller but notable number of responses objected to restrictions on eating or cooking in vehicles within car parks. Respondents described the wording as unclear or overly restrictive, particularly for seaside locations and for individuals with medical or dietary needs. Several responses requested clearer and more proportionate restrictions focused on antisocial behaviour rather than general use.

2.8.2. Officers note the comments received regarding restrictions on eating in vehicles. The intent of the relevant provision within the Parking Order has always been to prevent camping or the occupation of parking spaces in a manner that inhibits normal turnover, such as sleeping in vehicles or spreading across multiple spaces for picnicking, rather than to prevent occupants from remaining within their vehicle to consume food. In light of the feedback received, officers are proposing a minor amendment to the wording of the Order to clarify this intent by removing the reference to eating, while retaining the prohibition on sleeping or camping. This clarification is intended to avoid ambiguity and ensure the Order is applied proportionately, without altering the underlying purpose of the provision. In conjunction with this, a minor amendment to the payment wording is also proposed to improve clarity regarding when the parking charge becomes payable. These proposed clarifications are presented for Members' consideration alongside the consultation responses received.

## **2.9. None of the above**

2.9.1. A small number of responses did not raise objections falling within the above themes, including responses that were supportive of the proposals, raised unrelated issues, or provided general comments without reference to specific aspects of the Parking Order.

2.9.2. Officers note that a small number of responses did not raise issues falling within the main themes identified, including some supportive comments and general observations. These responses have been recorded and considered alongside all other representations received.

### 3. Proposals and Options

3.1. Following consideration of the consultation responses, it is proposed to amend the following sections of the Car Parking Order 2026. Changes to the below word doesn't erode the principle behind the provision but would permit people eating in their vehicles as highlighted as a concern in 2.8.1 of this report. For ease of reference please refer to highlighted wording which are being proposed to be removed.

Section	Current Wording	Proposed Wording
Section 11(3)	No person shall use any part of a Parking Place, or any vehicle <b>left in a Parking Place:</b> (a) for sleeping or camping purposes; (b) for eating or cooking purposes;	No person shall use any part of a Parking Place (a) for sleeping or camping purposes; (b) for eating or cooking purposes;
Section 5(3)	The Driver of a vehicle using a Parking Place shall, <b>on leaving the vehicle</b> upon arrival at the Parking Place, and subject to the provisions of Article 7) pay the appropriate Parking Charge (subject to a Parking Charge being payable).	The Driver of a vehicle using a Parking Place shall, upon arrival at the Parking Place, and subject to the provisions of Article 7) pay the appropriate Parking Charge (subject to a Parking Charge being payable).

### 4. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. The proposals and recommendations contained within this report directly contribute towards the “A Strong, Responsible and Accountable” element of the Corporate Plan.
- 4.2. This area represents a fundamental external income stream for the Council and as such can contribute significantly to helping sustain the Council’s medium term financial position.

### 5. Financial and Resource Implications

- 5.1. These proposed changes are anticipated to generate in the region of £152k additional income in 2026/2027, rising to 167k per annum thereafter. A budget of £15k was established to cover the cost of implementing the changes to the

current charges to include new signage and installation, advertising of the CPO, car park leaflets and reprogramming of the car park machines.

**Comments from the S151 Officer:**

***The S151 Officer (or member of the Finance team on their behalf) will complete this section.***

**6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. The statutory process for making a Car Parking Order requires a local authority to allow at least 21 days for any person to make a written representation to the draft proposals and to place the proposed order on deposit for public inspection during the objection period.
- 6.2. The Council has advertised the consultation within the local press and had a section of the internet to support the provision of consultation responses.
- 6.3. At the end of the consultation period, a Council's duty is to 'consider all representations duly made and not withdrawn' and before making the final order a local authority may modify the order in consequence of the objections. This report provides Members with a summary of the objections. Anything beyond minor amendments to the Car Parking Order would require a further consultation.
- 6.4. The Council's legal team have been involved throughout the Car Parking Order 2026 process.

**Comments from the Monitoring Officer**

***The Monitoring Officer (or member of the Legal team on behalf of the MO) will complete this section. They will outline any legal advice provided.***

**7. Risks**

- 7.1. There is a financial risk to the Council if the new charging regime is not introduced on 7 April 2025, which would result in the loss of potential additional income. Members should, however, note that it is possible to delay the making of an order for up to two years from the start of the objection period.

**8. Net ZeroTarget**

- 8.1. The works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Council policies.

**9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

- 9.1. There are no direct equality and diversity issues or sustainability issues arising from the car parking order although parking in towns has wider implications in relation to accessibility.

## **10. Community Safety issues**

- 10.1. There are no issues relating to community safety arising from this car park order.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The statutory consultation on the proposed Car Parking Order has been completed in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements. A range of representations were received, raising concerns and observations across several themes, including pricing, local impacts, tourism and trade, consultation clarity, and specific operational provisions within the Order. These representations have been summarised within this report to ensure Members are fully informed of the matters raised.

Officers have carefully considered the issues identified through consultation and, where appropriate, have proposed minor clarifications to the wording of the Order to improve clarity and proportionality, without altering its underlying purpose. In particular, proposed amendments seek to clarify the application of certain restrictions.

Members are now asked to consider the consultation responses alongside the contextual information provided within this report, including operational, financial, and legal considerations, and to determine whether it is appropriate to make the Car Parking Order as advertised. In doing so, Members are required to have regard to the representations received and to decide whether any modifications to the Order are necessary or whether it should be confirmed.

It is recommended that following is approved by Council:

1. That the Council introduces the Car Parking Order 2026 on 7 April 2026 as advertised.
2. That the Council considers it appropriate to make the order subject to minor changes to wording within the Car Parking Order 2026.