

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF REASONS

**THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (HITCHIN, LETCHWORTH, ROYSTON) ORDER
2024**

**THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (KNEBWORTH) ORDER 2024**

**THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (BALDOCK) No. 3 ORDER 2024**

Proposals

The proposal is described in the attached Traffic Regulation Orders as well as Public Notice of Making.

North Hertfordshire District Council proposes to revoke:

- The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off –Street Parking Places) Order 2014,
- The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places)(Knebworth) Order 2011,
- The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) (Amendment) Order 2012, and
- The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 2 Order 2014

and replace these with new Orders which introduces alternative methods of payment, virtual permits and season tickets, and reviews the definitions and length of stay for electric vehicle parking bays within the Council's operated car parks as listed in Schedule 1 and 2 of these Orders in Baldock, Hitchin, Knebworth, Letchworth and Royston.

Supporting Information

Replacement of Parking Machines:

The Council is replacing its current parking machines with new machines across all its car parks in 2025. These new machines will provide alternative methods of payment to customers which will include:

- Cash payment, contactless payment and pre/post payment options, otherwise referred to as Check in/Check out or Tap in/Tap out, to allow visitors to the town centres to stay longer within the maximum period of the chargeable hours to start their session and then pay for it on their return to the car park, and

- a ticketless system, where visitors will no longer need to display a ticket from the machine, as they will be required to enter their Vehicle Registration Number prior to choosing their payment option.

Issuing of virtual season tickets and permits

The Council is moving towards the issuing of electronic/virtual season tickets and permits later in the year. The electronic permit and season ticket will be recorded on the Council's Parking Permit Database removing the need to display a paper permit in most instances. It is to be noted, that this will not remove the need for paper permits entirely which may still need to be made available and displayed where necessary. This refers to the issuing of season tickets in the Council's long stay car parks in Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston and business permits in the St. Martin's Road car park in Knebworth. The issuing of any other types of permits and dispensations will be at the discretion of the Council and in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by the Council.

Electric Vehicles (EVs), Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle (PHV) and Electric Vehicle Charging Bays

The Council proposes to make provision for Electric Vehicle Charging Bays across all of its operated car parks and to update the requirements for EVs and PHVs within its current car parks by:

- updating the definition of EVs, PHVs and Electric Vehicle Charging Bays,
- increasing the length of stay for designated Electric Vehicle Charging Bays from 3hrs to 4hrs,
- proposing to have a no return within 4 hours to a designated Electric Vehicle Charging Bay during the charging hours of the car park i.e. 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday to allow for turnover of the EV bays during the daytime. The maximum stay will be restricted to 3 hours in the short stay car parks in Royston to accord with the current tariff structure, and
- introducing parking tariffs whilst using a designated Electric Vehicle Charging Bays during chargeable hours should the Council wish to implement such a scheme in the future. At present there is no charge for a parking session for an electric vehicle using a designated Electric Vehicle Charging Bay. Reference to possible payment is included in Schedule 2 'Parking Tariff and Time Limits' of the draft Orders which is set as free at present.

Other proposals include:

- Introducing No Return within 2 hours across all car parks to ensure turnover of spaces to support local businesses.
- Updating Schedule 1 for Biggin Lane Car Park in Hitchin in the North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 to enable the public to park in the car park on Market Days after 8:30am.
- Including new definitions and articles and updating existing definitions and articles where necessary in the draft Orders to accommodate the above proposals.

It is noted that the tariffs listed in Schedule 2 'Parking Tariff and Time Limits' of the draft Orders are as per the current 2024/25 tariffs.

Local Councillors, County Councillors, key stakeholders including Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston BIDS, Hitchin Markets Ltd, Royston Town Council and Knebworth Parish Council, the Emergency Services and Hertfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority have been informed of and consulted on these proposals.

Further Information

The proposed Orders can be viewed at:

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/parking-orders-and-reviews> Ref: NHDC/OFFST/2024

For further information on the above proposal, please contact Mark Hindmarch, North Hertfordshire District Council, PO Box 10613 Nottingham, NG6 6DW.

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