

East Herts Council Resident Permit Parking Policy

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1. Introduction

Resident Permit Parking Schemes (RPZs) may be introduced to assist residents living in an area where on-street parking demand significantly exceeds supply and where it is not appropriate to manage this demand using conventional parking restrictions. This document sets out the policy framework that underpins the adoption and operation of RPZs in East Herts. Schemes will be implemented and will operate in accordance with Operational Guidance which operates in parallel of this policy.

The Member Role

- Considerable financial and other resources are expended during the investigation, design and implementation of a resident permit parking scheme. For this reason and to ensure the Council's proposals are in line with the community's wishes, Member involvement in the process from its earliest point is essential. No scheme will progress to detailed survey, design and consultation stage until it receives support from all district councillors for the affected area(s).

Award Schemes

- East Herts Council will prioritise residents' parking needs in primarily residential areas where there is evidence derived from surveys that demand for on-street parking significantly exceeds supply, due to the presence of non-residents' vehicles.
- East Herts Council will follow the extensive consultation process set out in statute and Operational Guidance. The Council will seek to implement an RPZ only in areas where, following consultation, a majority of those residents who express a view wish to be included in a scheme.

- East Herts Council will follow statute and best practice when designing, implementing and administrating its resident permit parking schemes. In particular the Council will:
 - Seek to ensure that schemes operate in support of the Council's network management obligations as set out in Part 2 (16) of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and other relevant legislation.
 - Seek to ensure that collectively schemes do not generate a net financial surplus for the Council.
- East Herts Council will assess the wider effects on the community when considering the implementation of an RPZ, including the potential for vehicle displacement, the additional demand for off-street parking that may be generated and the ability of nearby car parks to accommodate this demand. These issues will be addressed through the scheme design, consultation and reporting processes.
- East Herts Council will seek to introduce 'shared use' RPZs wherever feasible and will prioritise schemes where this approach can be taken, to make effective use of on-street parking provision.

Financial Principles

- East Herts Council will use S106 contributions arising from related developments to fund the implementation of RPZs where these are available, although the progression of a scheme using S106 funding will be subject to it also meeting the Council's other policy and operational criteria, including the requirement for support from district councillors for the affected area(s) and a majority of those residents who engage in the consultation process.
- East Herts Council will not seek to recover the set-up costs of RPZs from residents, recognizing that in some cases these will have been met from S106 funding and that in many cases the implementation of an RPZ is likely to lead to increased use by some displaced motorists of the Council's off-street car parks, leading to an indirect financial benefit to the Council.
- East Herts Council will seek to recoup the operational cost of RPZs from the residents who benefit from the scheme – primarily from the sale of permits, visitor parking time and income from shared use parking (if applicable). At all stages during the consultation process the Council will give residents its 'best estimate' of the likely initial cost of permits should a scheme be implemented, to allow residents to make an informed decision on whether to seek inclusion in a scheme.
- Scheme revenue and costs will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council's annual fees and charges process.

- East Herts Council will take into account Penalty Charge Notice revenue that may arise from the implementation of a scheme when setting and reviewing scheme charges.
- Any inadvertent surplus arising from the Council's on-street parking operations (including RPZs) will be ring fenced for use by the Council in accordance with S55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- Any revenue surplus generated from 'shared use' schemes through the sale of 'pay and display' or commuter parking permits will be offset against permit costs.

2. Review of Schemes

East Herts Council will review resident satisfaction with a newly introduced RPZ approximately six months after implementation. This review will also canvass the views of residents, councillors and others from the wider area, outside the scheme's boundary, to ensure its full effects are understood. Where beneficial, the scheme may then be modified.

3. Removal of Schemes

Receipt of a significant number of requests for the removal of an established scheme will be managed in line with the 'Consultation and Implementation' process set out in Section 6 of Operational Guidance