Cabinet Member Foreword

If you are a resident, worker, business or visitor to Westminster we will endeavour to make it fair, easy and safe to park in the city.

I know how important it is for residents to be able to park close to their homes and for businesses and visitors to be able to park near their premises, key shopping areas and major attractions.

I recognise that in the past, when we did not listen to the advice of communities and businesses, we misjudged the situation. We have learned.

The Fair Parking Deal sets out the council’s approach to making it fair, easy and safe to park in Westminster.

I am committed to making it as easy as possible for those who need to park in central London to find and pay for their parking space and I intend to retain the current hours of control. I will also work with our car park operators to make sure there are plenty of off-street parking places, making it easy for shoppers and visitors to park close to the city’s busiest areas.

I also want to listen to new ideas about how the council can improve its approach to parking. Westminster is a city of global importance and we face unique challenges. I would encourage your input into making sure our approach to parking works in the best interests of residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

Parking has to be dynamic, as it is an ever-changing environment, and councils need to keep up with the pace of change. We need to harness new and innovative ways of working with motorists and the finite space we have on our streets. We can never stand still and we will continue to search for ways to deliver an easy, safe and fair service through new technology and new ideas.

I would welcome your comments and suggestions. Please do contact my team at fairparking@westminster.gov.uk or at Fair Parking, Member Services, 17th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP.

Councillor Daniel P. Astaire
Cabinet Member for Business

Fair Parking Policy

If you are a resident, worker, business or visitor to Westminster we will endeavour to make it fair, easy and safe to park in the city.

Fair Parking

1. We will seek to make it as easy as possible for those who need to park in central London to find and pay for their parking space.

2. We will continue to be open and transparent about how much income is generated from the parking service, where we invest the surplus, and how much on-street parking services cost.

3. Some of the initiatives we are implementing or trialling include more electric car charging points, traffic marshals, a parking space finder app and parking bay sensors.

4. We will crack down on fraud and take appropriate action against those who use disabled or resident parking badges fraudulently.

5. 98% of people who park in Westminster comply with the parking rules. Our Civil Enforcement Officers are there to help and not just to ensure that people park legally. They can help advise on where to park and the easiest way to pay.

6. Through our White Badge Scheme, we will remain committed to helping residents or workers who have a disability to park without charge or time limit in on-street parking bays.

7. We know that the city, and particularly the West End, is a uniquely busy place so we will continue to listen to ideas about how we can make sure parking is managed in a way that keeps the city moving.
Key facts:

Fair Parking in Westminster

• In addition to Westminster’s residents, there are 46,000 businesses which need services, and nearly 600,000 cars which enter central London every day. Westminster’s Parking Service helps keep this traffic moving by providing and managing on-street parking facilities and controls throughout Westminster.

• We provide over 41,000 on street parking spaces, catering for all road users and vehicle types, with many designed for short-term use.

• Some of the initiatives we are implementing or trialling include extra car club bays, more electric car charging points, and the use of traffic marshals to facilitate movement.

Easy parking

8. We will continue to negotiate special concessions with the city’s car park operators for parking close to the city’s major attractions. For example, it now costs only £2 an hour to park in Oxford Street, Trafalgar Square, Soho and Burlington Street car parks between 6.30pm and 7am.

9. We will help business by keeping Tradesmen’s Permits at approximately 80% of the cost of parking on-street.

Safe parking

10. We will work with the city’s car park operators to ensure that they continue to provide safe off-street parking for cars and motorcycles.

11. As part of their contractual duty, our Civil Enforcement Officers will continue to monitor cars parked on Westminster streets and will report any suspicious behaviour, vandalism or theft to the local police.
Key facts:

Disabled parking
- Westminster has over 500 disabled parking bay spaces where any disabled badge holder may park with a time limit of 4 hours during the day.
- As well as providing parking facilities for blue badge holders, Westminster City Council also operates a white badge scheme for disabled drivers and passengers who live or work in the city.
- The scheme is open to Westminster’s disabled residents and workers who meet the criteria, and allows them to park in on-street parking bays (but not on yellow lines) without charge or time limit.

Motorcycle parking
- We provide over 6,000 parking spaces for motorcycles.
- Motorcyclists can park free of charge in Q-Park car parks and for £1 a day in dedicated on-street motorcycle bays. Motorcyclists can also purchase weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual permits.
Key facts:

Residents’ Parking Permits

- There are 8 Residents’ Parking Permit Zones in the city, A – H.
- Residents’ parking permits cost £132 p/a (£115 online) with a discounted rate of £94 p/a (£83 online) for vehicles under 1200cc. A residents’ permit for a motorcycle costs £50 p/a and a permit for an eco vehicle (electric, hybrid, gas, fuel cell) is free.
- A residents’ permit allows a vehicle to be parked in any residents’ bay in the permit holder’s zone of residence. It also allows free parking in paid for bays within their zone during the first and last hours of control.
- PCN charges are set by London Councils and approved by the Mayor and the Secretary of State.

Penalty Charge Notices and procedure

- In 2011/12, 492,841 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued.
- PCNs issued on-street by CEOs in Westminster are currently either £80 or £130 depending upon the severity of the alleged contravention. All PCNs issued by CCTV are currently £130.
- We make it easy for you to pay for parking and parking tickets by providing a range of options. If you receive a PCN, you get a 50% discount rate if you pay within the first 14 days.

How we fund the parking service

The council spent £40.7m running the parking service in 2011/12. The parking service is financially self-sustaining with the cost of enforcement met by the income derived from paid for parking, car clubs, suspensions, Penalty Charge Notices, motorcycle parking, residents’ permits, trade permits and dispensations.

Figure 1: cost of running the parking service 2011/12 (£m)

Where there is a surplus from meeting the cost of running the parking service, the council invests this in wider improvements to transport and infrastructure. In 2011/12 there was a surplus of £37.1m:

- 47.4% of the surplus was spent on the street environment, including highways maintenance, street lighting, street trees and street cleansing
- 26.3% of the surplus was spent on children and community services, including home to school transport, concessionary fares, Freedom Passes and travel permits
- 19.4% of the surplus was spent on transportation and infrastructure, including traffic management schemes, bridges and structures
- 3.7% of the surplus was spent on transport-related property
- 2.6% of the surplus was spent on city and development planning, including highways planning and transport strategy
- 0.6% of the surplus was spent on community protection, including environmental projects