

Proposed Car Parking Changes – FAQs

1. Why is the County Council proposing an increase in residents' parking permit charges?

This follows an independent review all our fees and charges, to ensure that we are covering our costs. In 2013 the annual cost of a resident parking 1st permit was £80 and today it is £65.50. The recommendation is to charge £80 to help cover increases in the cost of providing the service.

Not increasing permit charges would mean that other services would need to be cut, or enforcement scaled back.

2. What is the policy behind residents' parking permits – are they intended to be cost-neutral or revenue-generating?

The policy is designed to support people living in and near town centres by helping them to park near their homes. It is designed to be cost neutral.

3. How were permit charges originally set, and what changes have been made over time?

They were set when the policy was agreed in 2010 and have been reviewed annually as part of the council's budget setting process.

4. What are the current charges for first and second residents' permits, and how do these compare historically?

Current charges are £65.50 for a 1st Permit and £131.15 for a 2nd Permit. The cost of a 1st permit was frozen at £50 from 2014 to 2021.

5. Will the proposed increase make permits unaffordable for residents, particularly in areas of economic deprivation?

A 1st permit will go up by £1.21/month. We recognise that an annual permit is a significant outlay especially for residents on lower incomes. This is why we offer monthly payment at no extra charge. The independent review of fees and charges recommended a 10% admin fee for monthly permits. However, we rejected this recognising the impact on residents and will introduce an easier, automated, monthly payment option from 1st April 2026 for renewals.

6. How does the Council ensure fairness for communities affected by congestion and poor air quality?

Our permit policy applies to resident permit zones which are in town centre locations where residents face intense competition for on-street parking from

commuters and other visitors. Gloucestershire does not have any Air Quality Management Areas.

7. What is the full breakdown of the parking services budget, including income and expenditure for the current year and projections for 2026/27?

In the current year, 2025/26, we forecast income of £5.459m and costs of £2.514m, giving a net outturn of £2.944m. However, within this total, resident parking zones are currently running at a loss, estimated at £239k this year.

All parking revenue is ring-fenced and by law can only be spent on parking services, highways services and local transport. Gloucestershire County Council is the only local authority in the county which invests in your road and transport services.

8. How will the planned £338,000 in savings/additional income for next year be achieved?

£150k by increasing resident permit costs

£45k by increasing business permit costs

£143k by increasing on street Pay & Display tariffs

9. Does the council use income from pay-and-display machines within residents' permit zones to subsidise permit costs?

No, because pay and display would operate in these urban areas in any case.

Resident permit zones are provided to benefit local residents, so it is not right that other residents should pay the costs of permit schemes.

10. Does residents parking in any one area subsidise other areas of the county?

We do not split our parking costs by local zones. Our policy deliberately sets a uniform permit rate across the county to avoid disadvantaging some communities.

12. How many residents' and business permits currently exist in the Gloucester Central Zone, broken down by first and second permits?

Currently there are 1196 resident permits in the Gloucester Central Zone. Of these 78% were 1st permits and 22% were 2nd permits. There are 111 business permits.

13. Can residents pay for permits monthly, and how does this option affect affordability?

Yes, and there is no additional cost to the resident for paying monthly. In Gloucester Central Zone 30% of residents permits are purchased monthly.

14. How has inflation and rising enforcement costs influenced the proposed changes?

Resident parking zones require considerable patrols for enforcement. Since 2020 our enforcement costs have risen by 32%, linked to increases in the National Living Wage and employers' National Insurance contributions.

15. What consultation has taken place with councillors and affected communities before these proposals were made?

The parking proposals were included in the draft budget published in December, out for public consultation until 9th January. We will be considering feedback from the consultation before any final decision is made.

16. How can residents and councillors raise concerns or request further information about the parking services budget?

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to transparency. We are the only local authority in the county to regularly publish an annual parking report explaining what our parking services do, any recent initiatives/improvements, and providing a breakdown of our performance and finances.