



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 13 July 2026

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver,
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

Call in - Review of SKDC Car Parking Arrangements

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

The Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to scrutinise the Cabinet decision instructing officers to undertake the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders.

Recommendations

The Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 1. Scrutinise the Cabinet decision to 'Instruct Officers to undertake the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders' considering the reasons for the call in as set out in para. 2.6 of this report.**
- 2. Determine whether the decision in question should:**
 - (a) be implemented;**

- (b) referred back to the decision maker (Cabinet) for reconsideration together with a written record of the committee's concerns and recommendations; or
- (c) referred to Full Council for consideration

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities Sustainable South Kesteven Enabling economic opportunities Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	(All Wards);

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

1.2 The call-in procedure forms part of the Council's constitutional arrangements for the scrutiny of executive decision making. The Committee's role is not to substitute its own decision for that of the executive but to consider whether the grounds for call-in demonstrate that the decision-making principles set out in Art.14 of the constitution were not appropriately followed. Having considered the call-in request and the representations made, the Committee should determine whether to take any action in accordance with the options available under the constitution.

1.3 The matter is before this committee because it relates to fees and charges which fall within the committee's remit under Art. 6 of the constitution.

Completed by: Graham Kitchen, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The Council previously undertook a review of car parking arrangements across the district in 2024 which instigated a change of car parking tariff structures in Grantham and Stamford. These changes took effect on 20 January 2025.

2.2 It was agreed to undertake an impact review of the new tariff structures following a 6-month operational period of the new structures having gone live to assess the following:

- The impact the new charges have had on usage, and any identify any adverse behavioural changes.
- Parking usage and charges policy at Bourne and the Deepings.
- The impact of the additional capacity at Cattle Market, Stamford.
- The appropriateness of the Council's Blue Badge parking policy.

- 2.3 Consultants (Tetra Tech) were appointed on behalf of the Council to undertake the impact review the new tariffing structure had caused.
- 2.4 The findings of the Tetra Tech Car Parking Update 2025 were presented to Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10th March 2026, and to Cabinet on the 2 June 2026, where the report findings were discussed in detail and the recommendations for the further actions were approved.
- 2.5 A copy of the details of the Decision Notice is set out below:

That Cabinet:

- 1. Commission a feasibility study in order to identify additional parking capacity in Stamford.*
- 2. Approve a new single charge of £3 at the Cattle Market car park Stamford Monday to Thursday to encourage greater usage.*
- 3. Instruct officers to undertake the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders.***
- 4. Agree to amend the Parking Order to reduce the parking limitation periods at SKDC car parks in Bourne town centre to the following: South Street – up to 12 hours
Burghley Street – up to 3 hours
Corn Exchange – up to 3 hours (excluding authorised parking)*
- 5. Agree to review and update the current waiting times at all other Council operated car parks across the District to ensure they remain appropriate for the usage requirements.*
- 6. Agree to a review of the controlled parking arrangements across the District following a six-month implementation period.*
- 7. Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement the establishment of a new season ticket offer for Cattle Market car park (Stamford) following changes to the daily parking charges.*

- 2.6 One specific recommendation (point 3) was to approve the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders has now been called in. The reason for the call in and the Officers' response are as follows:

2.7 Call-in Wording

Exceptional Circumstances:

'As worded, the proposal may not be equitable for blue badge holders using SKDC car parks.'

Art. 14 Concerns:

I believe my concern falls under point 3 and 10 of the Constitution Article 14 - that those using a blue badge may be disadvantaged by those who are able bodied if they are only allowed to use a car park for 3 hours as worded in the decision notice. I have a resident who has a blue badge and works in Stamford for 4.5hrs. As things stand, it is unclear how or where she would park after the 3-hour limit without returning to her vehicle, moving it and then paying for the further time. I do not believe an EIA has been completed to ensure this type of issue is negated or has been discussed'

2.8 Officer Response:

Cabinet Report dated Tuesday, 2 June 2026 2.00pm – Review of SKDC Car Parking Arrangements Sections 2.7 to 2.11 outlines the findings with regards to Disabled Parking and the lack of time limitations on existing Council car parks.

Section 2.9 of the report specifically discusses the need for review to be undertaken in respect of distribution and allocation of disabled bays, and this is proposed to be undertaken to ensure the equity of SKDC's car parking offer. Cabinet approved the commencement of the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders.

This proposal will follow the statutory process for the amendment of the Parking Order (in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984). Therefore, the consultation will request feedback following the publication of public notices where objections can be raised for consideration.

For clarity, blue badge holders would not be limited to 3 hours total duration of stay in SKDC pay and display car parks. It is only the free parking period that would be limited. The vehicle can remain in the space for any period beyond the 3 hours providing the appropriate fee is paid. There would be no requirement for the vehicle to be moved during the parking period. However, any parking period beyond the 3 hours is permissible by purchasing additional time in accordance with the normal tariffing structure.

It has not been necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment at this time as the Cabinet decision related to the commencement of the statutory

process. This includes a comprehensive consultation period which will allow all stakeholders the opportunity to express their views on the proposed changes.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The current disabled parking criteria is not consistent with an ambition to ensure that where parking capacity is limited, an equitable offer is established. Currently disabled badge holders are able to park in any bay for an unlimited period with display of their badge.
- 3.2 When compared to that of other neighbouring authorities, the Councils charging policy in comparison can be seen to be generous, with other authorities limiting free disabled parking periods. To align with the current rules of 3 hours for on-street parking and other comparable Councils it is recommended that SKDC limit disabled parking to 3-hour free parking in any bay for blue badge holders.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 Taking no action is also an option. However, due to the ongoing parking provision pressures to Council car parks across the district, this is not recommended.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 As detailed within the body of this report the Decision of Cabinet for the Council to undertake the necessary steps pursuant to the introduction of a maximum 3-hour free parking limit at all Council Pay and Display car parks for blue badge holders has been called in. A response has been provided to the reasons that the call in was enacted.
- 5.2 Members are asked to consider the information provided raising any further clarifications and to determine the appropriate course of action.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Financial and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report dated Tuesday, 10th March, 2026 10:00am – SKDC Parking Review:
<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s50181/Review%20of%20Council%20Car%20Parking%20Arrangements.pdf>
- 6.2 Cabinet Report dated Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026 2.00pm – Review of SKDC Car Parking Arrangements:
<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s51282/Review%20of%20SKDC%20Car%20Parking%20Arrangements.pdf>

