

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Decriminalised Parking Enforcement?

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) transfers the enforcement of all parking, waiting loading restrictions powers from the Police to the relevant local authority (in this case, Stirling Council). As a result illegal parking becomes a civil rather than a criminal matter. Many other Councils across Scotland have successfully implemented DPE in their area.

Why is it being introduced in Stirling?

As a consequence of Police Scotland's decision to discontinue the role of Traffic Warden in January 2014, increased non-compliance with on street parking restrictions has been noted within the Stirling Council area. Whilst Stirling Council did have an agreement with Falkirk Council and Police Scotland to part fund Traffic Warden provision in both areas, this is not sustainable, and another method of enforcing parking restrictions was required.

What do these new powers cover?

This includes enforcement of offences concerning double yellow lines, single yellow lines, clearways, spaces for blue badge holders (disabled bays), pay and display bays, loading bays, bus bays, taxi ranks, permit holder bays (i.e. residents and doctors) and school keep clear zig-zags. Once introduced the Council Parking Attendants will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) to any vehicle parked in contravention of the restriction in force.

What are the benefits?

The introduction of DPE will benefit all road users and pedestrians who may be inconvenienced by indiscriminate or illegally parked vehicles, including on footways and at crossing points, as it will provide more standardisation of parking controls, which is an effective method in controlling traffic movement, improving environmental conditions as less pollution / congestion for Stirling City as drivers opt to park within the city centre car parks and / or use the 2 Park and Ride sites..

Inconsiderate or illegal parking can cause safety concerns for citizens, visitors, businesses and blue badge holders. DPE will allow the Council to better manage both on street and off street parking which in turn will lead to availability of parking spaces for all users groups and improved access for deliveries, through reduced competition for road space, increasing safety for pedestrians and other vulnerable groups. It will also be more locally accountable and adaptable to local needs, while supporting public transport initiatives.

Are new parking restrictions being put in place?

No, we are simply updating the existing layout and restrictions with all the existing restrictions and parking zones remaining as they are. We will be commencing remedial works across Stirling over the next few months to improve the lines and signs for each area, to ensure all are fit for purpose. This may mean moving existing signs slightly in keeping with the more accurately updated lines and road markings.

There will be **no change** to existing parking regulations, so responsible drivers who park legally in accordance with the restrictions will not notice any difference.

What role will the Police have when DPE is introduced?

Police Scotland support the move towards DPE in Stirling, as 14 other local authorities in the country have already successfully introduced this. Police officers will no longer play a role in enforcing day to day, other than issuing penalty tickets for endorsable offences to any vehicle they deem to be causing a road safety hazard, danger or obstruction.

How will I know if this work will take place in my area?

Regular updates on which streets will receive refreshed lines, signs and road markings will be made available both on our public website and our social media channels.

How will DPE be enforced?

A team of Prevention and Enforcement Officers has been created using existing Stirling Council community wardens and enforcement staff. These officers will have the power to place Penalty Charge Notices on vehicles contravening parking regulations. In certain circumstances where the vehicle is considered to be causing an obstruction or a road safety hazard, Stirling Council could also authorise the removal of an illegally parked vehicle.

How will I know when I see a Prevention and Enforcement Officer?

The team have blue uniforms and will be clearly identifiable with Parking Attendants signage on their jackets.

How much can I be fined if parked incorrectly?

For parking offences motorists can be fined £30, increasing to £60 if no payment has been received within 21 days.

Where does the money go?

Revenue created through Penalty Charges will be used by Stirling Council to finance the enforcement and adjudication of the DPE scheme. Any surpluses are used firstly to improve parking facilities and secondly for general traffic management and public transport purposes.

Who do I contact if I wish to contest a fine?

Anyone wishing to contest liability for a penalty charge may make representation to Stirling Council and, if rejected, may have grounds to appeal to independent adjudicators, whose decision would be final.

When will DPE start?

A draft application for DPE was submitted to Transport Scotland in January 2016. Once Council officers receive comments back on this, a formal application will be submitted which then requires Scottish Ministers being satisfied with the proposals, in order to decriminalise the relevant offences and provide the necessary enforcement powers a number of statutory instruments require to be prepared, consulted upon and laid before the Scottish Parliament, with a view to DPE being introduced in November 2016. Over and above the remedial works to signs, lines and road markings, works are also ongoing to digitise all parking restrictions, in order that this information will be available on an online map for the entire Council area, on the Stirling Council website.