

ANNUAL PARKING ENFORCEMENT REPORT for the period 2023/24

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The information contained in this report is in accordance with section 55 of the Road Traffic Act 1984 as amended by Traffic Management Act 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The District Council operates over 50 car parks with over 6000 spaces. These are managed under the regulations set out in the 'District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2005'. A copy of the Order, car park locations and charges can be found on the Council's web site (www.newforest.gov.uk/parking).
- 2.2 The District covers an area of approximately 290 square miles with a resident population of 173,000. We now have an estimated 15 million visitors annually and a high percentage of these visitors will make use of the councils pay and display car parks during their visits. Hampshire County Council is responsible for the enforcement of on-street Traffic Regulation Orders. This includes enforcement of single and double yellow lines, limited waiting bays, loading bays, motor-cycle bays, taxi ranks, bus stop clearways, pedestrian crossings and on-street disabled bays.

3. PENALTY CHARGE NOTICE INFORMATION

- 3.1 Penalty Charge/Warning Notices issued for financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24

	2022/23	2023/24
Number PCNs issued at higher level	235	289
Number PCNs issued at lower level	6580	6877
Number PCNs paid	5290	5375
Number PCNs paid at discounted rate	4607	4690
Number PCNs against which informal challenge received	2104	2140
Number cancelled as result of informal challenge	998	1307
Number against which a formal representation has been received	147	174
Number cancelled as result formal representation	70	78
Number cancelled for other reasons (e.g. driver untraceable) -	222	170
Number Warning Notices issued	1452	308

3.2 ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNT

	2022/23	2023/24
INCOME	£'000	£'000
Penalty Charge Notices	152	163
Residents Parking Permits	0	0
Dispensations	14	30
Total Income	166	193
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Costs	314	340
Supplies and Services	24	22
Support services	19	19
Capital Financing	0	0
Total Expenditure	357	381
(Surplus)/Deficit	191	188

3.3 THE TRAFFIC PENALTY TRIBUNAL (TPT)

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal provides an independent judicial process for the hearing of appeals against the issue of Penalty Charge Notices. In this financial year no appeals were lodged relating to a PCN issued by New Forest District Council. Further information concerning TPT can be found on their web site:

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The number of PCNs issued in 2023/24 was higher than the previous year. The current PCN levels continue to reflect well on the current high compliance rates in our car. This has been achieved through maintaining early and late cover in addition to daytime patrolling during the summer months and it this targeted patrolling that leads to improved compliance and therefore greater overall ticket sales income.
- 4.2 With the adjustment to the split of employee costs to other services the enforcement team provide, plus improved income from dispensations (contractors paying for temporary compound licences in our car parks to facilitate local works), the overall enforcement account deficit is similar to the previous year with a slight decrease where dispensation and PCN income has offset the employee costs, caused by the increased wage bill reflecting pay rises.
- 4.3 19% of all PCN's received were cancelled following either informal challenges or formal representations. The percentage cancelled at formal representation remained at 1% of all tickets issued which highlights that most challenges are dealt with during the informal challenge stage. The number cancelled at informal challenge stage increased , primarily due to a significant reduction in warnings for parking clock misuse.
- 4.4 All motorists receiving a PCN can now see their case details and photos taken by the Enforcement Officers at the start of any online payment or challenge and this it is anticipated will, in time lead, to a reduction in challenges overall which will be reflected in next years figures.