

Car Park Strategy

2021 - 2026



Introduction

This document sets out proposals for changing the way the Council manages and regulates car parks across the Borough. The Council is under no obligation to provide car parks or parking facilities, but it chooses to do so as it recognises that parking plays an important part in supporting the local economy and promoting the vitality and viability of the Borough as a whole and, in particular its three town centres.

To support the changes this Car Park Strategy sets out the Council's approach to the provision and development of off-street car parking across the Borough. The strategy covers a five-year period (2021-2026) and will be reviewed regularly.

The strategy sets out the framework which the Council will use to make future decisions and what these should aim to achieve; it does not set out every decision or action that will affect car parking in the Borough.

At the heart of the strategy is the principle that there are enough car parking spaces in appropriate locations to support the prosperity and sustainability of our town centres and leisure facilities and that these are accessible, convenient and of a quality standard. The strategy considers how these aspirations can be financed.

Behind the Car Park Strategy sits the Council's:

- Corporate Plan 2019-2024
- Local Plan (2011–2031)
- Environment Strategy 2019

The Corporate Plan sets out the overarching context for the Borough up to 2026. The Corporate Vision is 'A stronger Borough together, improving the lives of our communities'. It includes the three corporate objectives:

- Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities
- Growing the Borough Economically
- Providing Excellent Services

The Local Plan (2011-2031) aims to establish vibrant town centres in the borough by delivering regeneration, investment, and growth. The Car Park Strategy has a key role to play in delivering this aspiration by providing potential sites for redevelopment whilst also ensuring adequate car parking is available for visitors to the town centres.

The Car Park Strategy supports the Councils' Environment Strategy by including measures to reduce the environmental impact of our car parks, in particular through electric vehicle charging and provision of further cycle racks.

CAR PARK STRATEGY 2021 – 2026

Car Park Strategic Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the Car Park Strategy is to provide and manage a range of safe, secure, well maintained and affordable car parking that meets the needs of residents, shoppers, businesses, visitors and commuters in a way that supports the long term economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.

In order to do this, we will seek to:

1. Make best use of our assets by ensuring the right number of parking spaces are provided in the right location.
2. Provide safe, well maintained and well managed car parks.
3. Support the Local Plan (2011-2031) and the Environment Strategy 2019 by encouraging sustainable transport use and reducing emissions.
4. Deliver a self-financing car park service that is able to provide continual improvements in the parking environment.

Underpinning the main objectives above are the principles that:

- Parking should be purposeful – located and managed to fulfil a specific functional requirement.
- Planning and managing parking provision requires close working with, and an understanding of, business, employers and service user's needs.
- Parking management is essential to ensure that wider environmental, social and economic objectives are met.
- Car parks need to be maintained to a high standard in terms of facilities, condition and safety.
- On street parking issues and displacement parking need to be kept under review
- Marketing and promotion should be used as a tool to encourage use of the most appropriate parking for different purposes.
- The cost of providing and managing car parks should be met by car park users.
- Parking charges should be reasonable and proportionate and set at a level that does not undermine the vitality of the town centres. Balanced against this is the need for the Council to generate income to cover the costs of providing car parks and associated facilities and to allow for future improvements and investment.
- Opportunities to encourage sustainable forms of transport should be taken into consideration.

Background:

Off-Street parking

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council owns and operates 21 public car parks that are covered by this strategy. Ten of these car parks serve the three town centres, three serve country park and leisure facility users, seven are for users of local parks and one for local residents / railway station users. The rules and regulations that govern the operation of the car parks are detailed in a legal document known as the 'Borough of Oadby and Wigston (Off-street Parking Places) Order'. A copy of the current Order can be found on the councils' web site at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/car_parks

On-street parking

Leicestershire County Council is responsible for the management and enforcement of on-street parking within the Borough. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will seek to maintain a close working relationship with Leicestershire County Council to ensure any on-street parking provision contributes to the aims of this strategy.

Requests for additional on-street restrictions and changes are made through Leicestershire County Council.

The County Council currently operates three on-street resident parking permit schemes in the Borough:

- Sandhurst Street, Oadby
- Paddock Street, Wigston
- Marstown Avenue and surrounding area, South Wigston

Enforcement

Both on-street and off-street enforcement is delivered locally through a partnership arrangement with Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council. This ensures that Civil Enforcement Officers working on behalf of the Borough Council can regulate all parking across the Borough. This has advantages in terms of efficiency and helps to ensure the various traffic rules, regulations and restrictions are adhered to consistently.

Parking for people with disabilities

All of the Council's public car parks have designated disabled parking bays where blue badge holders can park so long as they are displaying a valid badge. Blue badge holders may also park in any space if the disabled bays are full provided they display a valid badge.

Private parking provision

There are several privately owned car parks across the Borough, notably in town centres. Some of these are for employees only whilst some are offered as free customer parking. In some locations businesses have chosen to employ private enforcement agents. The council does not have any jurisdiction in these areas.

Working with local businesses

The Council recognises that the availability of public parking is necessary for businesses to operate successfully whether this is for their own staff or for the convenience of their customers and visitors. The council will maintain a dialogue with local businesses to ensure that the provision of car parking promotes the economic vitality and regeneration opportunities of the town centres and supports businesses to achieve commercial success.

Objective 1 – Make best use of our assets by ensuring the right number of parking spaces are provided in the right location.

We will do this by:

- Undertaking regular surveys to establish user patterns, needs and expectations.
- Carrying out regular reviews of the survey findings to identify level of demand and usage and propose options for any deficiencies or propose alternative uses/options for under used car parks as appropriate. In line with the Policy 2 of the Local Plan, any development or alternatives would seek to maintain the net number of existing public car parking spaces.
- Making adequate provision for Blue Badge Holders.
- Reviewing the need for lorry and bus provision within car parks
- Working with Leicestershire County Council to examine the desirability for additional On-Street Resident Parking Areas.
- Proactively pursuing development opportunities that will result in the regeneration of the Borough's town centres, make the best use of councils' assets and assist with the provision of an appropriate overall level of parking for the Borough.

Objective 2 - Provide safe, well maintained and well managed car parks.

We will do this by:

- Reviewing and determining the appropriate standards for the maintenance, design and provision of parking facilities and equipment.
- In line with the Safer Parking Scheme, establish satisfactory safety standards for car parks and implement a phased programme to meet the requirements of the Scheme.
- Continuing to monitor our car park infrastructure on a regular basis and take remedial action where required.
- Monitor levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in car parks and take action to mitigate.

Objective 3 – Support the Environment Strategy by encouraging sustainable transport use and reducing emissions.

We will do this by:

- Making comprehensive and up to date information on our car parks available through our website, social media and other means which allows visitors to make the best sustainable transport choice when visiting the Borough.
- Providing information and directional signage within our car parks to assist first time visitors to the Borough.
- Installing electric vehicle charge points across our car parks where this is possible.

- Extending the provision of well-designed, secure cycle racks across our car parks to encourage cycle use.
- Ensuring that where pedestrian 'short cuts' and desire lines exist through our car parks they are safe and well managed.
- Reviewing the provision of directional signage off the highway for off-street car parks with Leicestershire County Council.

Objective 4 - Deliver a self-financing car park service that is able to provide continual improvements in the parking environment.

We will do this by:

- Establishing charges that are reasonable and proportionate to enable the service to be self- financing.
- Ensuring that the charging policy is structured in such a way as to meet the requirements needed to fund improvements in all the council's car parks.
- Keeping the level of charges under review to ensure they do not adversely impact the local economy, nor lead to undesirable displacement consequences.
- Implementing a fully funded regular maintenance and inspection programme to ensure agreed standards are achieved.
- Ensure the charging regime supports the use of short-term spaces in convenient locations and that long-term need is provided out of centre where possible.
- Keep payment options under review to ensure the widest range of options is available to users whilst keeping back-office administration costs as low as possible.
- Introducing and keeping under review a range of cost-effective options for different types of parking including, for example, residential off-street permits and season tickets etc.

All town centre and leisure car parks:

Hours of enforcement:	Hours for enforcement and regulation are 0800 to 1800 Monday to Sunday, inclusive of public holidays.
Charges:	Charges apply to the town centre and leisure car parks listed below. Pay and display machines allow both cash and card payments with vehicle number registration entry. Pay by phone is available in all locations. Parking permits are also available.
Parking permits:	Permits are available to anyone using car parks in the Borough. For regular users these present a cost-effective way of paying for parking at a reduced price. More information is available on the council web site at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/permit Permits are available for either 6 or 12 month duration and allow parking up to the maximum length of stay allowed in each car park (see car park sign board).
Disabled bays	Disabled parking is free in any bay for up to 3 hours so long as a valid 'Blue Badge' and clock is displayed correctly.
Quick shop bays:	There are 6 'quick shop' bays allowing up to 30 minutes free parking at Countesthorpe Road Car Park in South Wigston, Junction Road and Spring Lane Car Parks in Wigston and Sandhurst Street and East Street Car Parks in Oadby
Electric Vehicle Charge Points:	Where bays are provided for electric vehicle charging these should only be used whilst a vehicle is charging. Parking charges apply in these bays during enforcement hours. Electric vehicles must move out of a charging bay once charging is complete.

Town Centre Car Parks:

Oadby - East Street*

Total number of parking bays	180
Number of disabled parking bays	14
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	6
Number of Electric Vehicle charging bays	8
Maximum length of stay	4 hours
Return visits during same day	Prohibited if within 3 hours
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3

Oadby – Ellis Park*

Total number of parking bays	39
Number of disabled parking bays	2
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	4 hours
Return visits during same day	Prohibited if within 3 hours
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3

Oadby – Sandhurst Street*

Total number of parking bays	192
Number of disabled parking bays	10
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	6
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

South Wigston – Countesthorpe Road

Total number of parking bays	68
Number of disabled parking bays	4
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	6
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	15
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

South Wigston – Station Street

Total number of parking bays	29
Number of disabled parking bays	2
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

South Wigston – Kirkdale Road (parking for rail users)

Total number of parking bays	42
Number of disabled parking bays	2
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

Wigston – Aylestone Lane

Total number of parking bays	58
Number of disabled parking bays	4
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	10
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

Wigston – Frederick Street

Total number of parking bays	53
Number of disabled parking bays	4
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	4 hours
Return visits during same day	Prohibited within 3 hours
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3

Wigston – Junction Road*

Total number of parking bays	137
Number of disabled parking bays	8
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	6
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	4 hours
Return visits during same day	Prohibited within 3 hours
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3

Wigston – Paddock Street*

Total number of parking bays	79
Number of disabled parking bays	5
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3 Over 4 hours £4

Wigston – Spring Lane

Total number of parking bays	28
Number of disabled parking bays	2
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	6
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	4 hours
Return visits during same day	Prohibited within 3 hours
Charges:	Up to 2 hours £1 Up to 4 hours £3

* See Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2011-2031) Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough.

Country Parks and Leisure Facilities

Oadby - Brocks Hill Country Park

Total number of parking bays	45
Number of disabled parking bays	5
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 4 hours £1 Over 4 hours £2

Oadby – Parklands Leisure Centre

Total number of parking bays	183 (plus 130 in overflow car park)
Number of disabled parking bays	9
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	0
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 4 hours £1 Over 4 hours £2

Wigston – Wigston Pool & Gym

Total number of parking bays	80
Number of disabled parking bays	5
Free 'quick shop' 30-minute bays	0
Number of Electric Vehicle Charging bays	12
Maximum length of stay	12 hours
Return visits during same day	Allowed
Charges:	Up to 4 hours £1 Over 4 hours £2

Local parks – no charges apply

Oadby - Coombe Park
Free (maximum stay 12 hours)

Oadby - Uplands Park
Free (maximum stay 12 hours)

South Wigston - Blaby Road Park
Free (maximum stay 4 hours)

South Wigston - Crow Mills
Free (maximum stay 12 hours)

Wigston – Horsewell Lane Park

Free (maximum stay 12 hours)

Wigston – Peace Memorial Park

Free (maximum stay 4 hours)

Wigston – Willow Park

Free (maximum stay 4 hours)
