

THE WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES)

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The proposed Order consolidates the Council's off-street parking provisions into a single updated Order reflecting operational practices and decisions approved in February 2026.

The proposals consist of the following:

1. Charging Hours Review

A new Order is proposed to include the following:

- Extend charging hours from 08:30–17:30 to 08:00–18:00 (Monday to Saturday)

This reflects:

- a) Parking demand extending beyond current charging periods
- b) The need to manage peak usage more effectively
- c) Alignment with typical visitor and retail activity patterns

2. Tariff Review and Justification

Tariffs have been reviewed following the February 2026 Council report to:

- Ensure consistency by the introduction a consistent tariff structure across similar car parks and the removal of variations that are not supported by usage patterns.
- Support turnover of parking spaces by encouraging short stay parking in high demand locations and improve availability for shoppers and visitors.
- Reflect demand and usage by aligning charges with demand at both short-stay and long-stay sites and to discourage long stays in premium locations.
- Support the local economy by retaining targeted free parking incentives, including:
 - a) Up to 30 minutes free at Park Road Car Park
 - b) Up to 30 minutes free in 12 designated bays at Wheatsheaf Car Park
 - c) Free parking periods at Derby Street
- These measures are intended to encourage short visits, support local businesses and improve turnover of parking spaces.

- Maintain effective parking management by ensuring efficient use of parking provision and balance accessibility with demand management.
- To manage increased operational costs and enable car park improvements.

3. Modernisation of Parking Operations

The new Order is proposed to include the following:

- Future implementation of cashless parking systems.
- Updated operational definitions and conditions.

4. Permit Provision

Amended permit provisions are included to:

- Support operational requirements.
- Maintain and control public permit provision (e.g. Hants Lane).

5. Electric Vehicle Provision

The Order includes provisions for electric vehicle bays to support environmental objectives and ensure appropriate use of charging infrastructure.

6. Consolidation

The Order consolidates The 2015 Order and subsequent amendments into a single document for clarity and enforceability.

The Council considers the proposed Order necessary to ensure the fair, efficient and consistent management of its parking places while supporting accessibility and economic activity.