

## Draft Belfast Off Street Parking Order

### Why we are consulting.

Council wishes to seek views on the actions it proposes for inclusion in a new and consolidated Belfast Off Street Parking Order. Should you require the document in a different format or in another language, please email [bellg@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:bellg@belfastcity.gov.uk) with your request.)

It is envisaged that the main body of the current Off Street Parking Order will remain unchanged, with several proposed amendments under consideration.

Should these proposed amendments be accepted, they will be incorporated within the new order and enacted after the appropriate approvals and statutory process have been completed.

The public consultation process is an essential component to the overall development of the final order. We want to know what the residents, visitors, and other stakeholder to think about our proposals. We will use this feedback to agree and refine the proposals.

Council had endeavoured to create their own Order in 2020 but following a discussion with DfI and an independent legal opinion, it was confirmed that the two orders could not be in place at the same time and the DfI legislation would always be the preminent legislation.

To facilitate an efficient transition, it was agreed that councils make the minimum number of changes to the existing order, within their draft orders. proposed changes would benefit council but have minimal legislative change and be in a position of readiness when DfI are ready to revoke the Off-Street Parking Order (Northern Ireland) 2000.

Belfast City Council may seek to introduce the Belfast Order initially into the 4 car parks outside of the NI 2000 order and then to create an amendment order to bring the order 26 car parks into the new Belfast Order.

### Key proposals

1. Make additional provisions for Blue Badge holders by giving one hour free additional parking time (after requisite car parking tariff paid).
2. Increase the number of Blue Badge bays.
3. Improve accessible parking arrangements.
4. Include 4 public car parks in the new order.
5. Remove 2 car parks no longer managed by the Council from the order.
6. Introduce a mechanism to suspend parking bays and parking places.
7. Introduce a mechanism to improve the use of the car park as a temporary meeting place.

***Please give us your views***

### ***Online Survey***

### **Blue Badge parking**

## Appendix 3

We currently provide Blue Badge parking at all council public off-street car parks. This is monitored on an annual basis.

Blue Badges are issued against clear criteria to support mobility needs. It is not means tested.

Following engagement with IMTAC we are proposing to retain the parking fees for Blue Badge holders. However, we recognise that customers who hold Blue Badges may require additional time due to their mobility issues. Therefore, we are proposing that vehicles displaying a valid Blue Badge will be permitted to park for free for an additional hour following payment of the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges.

How supportive or unsupportive are you of the following proposals relating to blue badge holders?

Blue Badge holders should be allowed an extra hour of free parking:

Blue Badge holders should be allowed an extra hour of free parking:

☐ Very supportive    ☐ Supportive    ☐ Not very supportive    ☐ Not at all supportive    ☐ Don't know

Please explain your reasons for supporting or not supporting these proposals:

Are you a Blue Badge holder or do you drive someone with a Blue Badge?

☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Don't know

### **Arrangements for temporary closure of parking bays and car parks**

As part of the new Belfast Off-Street Parking Order, we want to introduce a mechanism that enables the prompt closure of car parks under specific circumstances. Currently, we need to go through a legal Order to regulate or restrict the use of a designated parking place, including closing or suspending operations in part of a car park. This can be an arduous and time-consuming legal process. The proposed change will help us close the car parks for maintenance, council events, alterations to the car parks or development of the car parks, in a more efficient and timely manner.

How supportive or unsupportive are you of our proposal to introduce a process to facilitate the temporary closing car parks?

## Appendix 3

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive
- ☐ Don't know or no opinion

If you have any comments relating to our proposed arrangements for temporarily closing our car parks, please tell us here

### Allowing temporary alternative use of off-street car parks

Currently, we are restricted with how the parking bays and parking places are used. The existing legislation states that parking places are specifically used for parking. Often, we must deny access to council services or other organisations who wish to use the car park for events. Council is seeking to introduce a mechanism whereby the parking bays and parking places may be used temporarily for activities other than parking. This will assist in facilitating wider council work and partnership activities.

How supportive or unsupportive are you of our proposal to introduce a mechanism to allow temporary use of off-street car parks?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive
- ☐ Don't know or no opinion

### Designation of car parks into the Belfast Off-street Parking Order

Four car parks, operated and managed by council, are not regulated by the current Off Street Parking Order (2000) NI (as amended). For administrative purposes they need to be officially included in the new Belfast off-street parking order. Two car parks listed in the 2000 order are no longer within the council portfolio and need to be removed.

More information about these car parks can be found under our [FAQs](#).

## Appendix 3

If you have any comments relating to the designation of these car parks within the Belfast City Council off-street parking order, please tell us here:

### Equality considerations

Are you aware of any equality implications in relation to these proposals or our Draft Belfast Off-Street Parking Order?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you have you any further comments or suggestions on the changes to car parking being proposed by the council, please tell us here:

Are you responding as an individual (member of the public) or on behalf of a group or organisation?

☐ I am responding on behalf of a group or organisation

☐ I am a member of the public