

## **Dumfries & Galloway Regional Parking Strategy Community Conversations FAQ**

### **Why is this work needed?**

Transport and parking are vital public services contributing towards the local economy, communities, environment and quality of life. We wish to develop a comprehensive, innovative and inclusive Regional Parking Strategy with a clear and realistic action plan to make the most of opportunities for employment, business, leisure and tourism, while aligning with the Council's key priorities.

### **What is a Parking Strategy?**

The Regional Parking Strategy will set out the vision for parking across the Dumfries & Galloway region. It will address current issues the Council is facing with regards to parking control, management and enforcement.

### **Have you decided what will be taken forward?**

At this stage, no decisions have been made about parking in the region. It is important you share your views with us through the community conversations and online survey so the Council is able to gather the broadest range of views. These will be considered as the Regional Parking Strategy is being developed, and will help to shape parking control, management and enforcement in future years.

### **What do you mean by decriminalised parking enforcement?**

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) is a process which enables a local authority to administer its own parking penalties, including the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to vehicles. In areas with DPE, stationary traffic offences cease to be criminal offences enforced by the police and instead become civil penalties enforced by the local authority.

### **How does enforcement work in D&G currently?**

At present, parking enforcement in Dumfries & Galloway, except for specific 'disc-zone' controlled car parks, is the responsibility of Police Scotland. Local Authorities in Scotland are able to take responsibility of enforcement activity through applying to Transport Scotland for DPE. This transfers powers from Police Scotland to the council, including the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to motorists.

### **How does a local authority apply for DPE?**

Applications for DPE are submitted to Transport Scotland, who assess the application on behalf of Scottish Ministers. A series of consultation and engagement is required to support the application, including with Police Scotland and neighbouring authorities.

### **Will the police be responsible for any parking enforcement?**

The Police will not be responsible for enforcing any permanent waiting, loading or parking restrictions except on most of the Trunk Road network. They will still enforce all "moving" traffic offences and matters of obstruction and some temporary waiting restrictions, such as areas marked with "Police No Waiting" cones at special events.

### **Will parking charges be introduced in D&G?**

No decision has been made at this stage regarding the introduction of parking charges. This includes with regards to locations (e.g. car parks or on-street, within specific towns, etc) or tariffs.

### **How is DPE funded?**

DPE regimes are funding using the revenue associated with Penalty Charge Notices issued and, if applicable, through parking charges. No decision has been made at this stage on the latter.

**What are other local authorities doing?**

At present, 21 local authorities in Scotland operate DPE. Of the remaining, three are in the process of obtaining DPE powers currently. A number of the remaining local authorities are investigating the potential to introduce DPE, including Scottish Borders.

**Will there be traffic wardens? – How will this be paid for?**

DPE would incorporate enforcement of parking infractions by the Council, this can be done through traffic wardens. They are financed through income generated by Penalty Charge Notices issued by the Council. Transport Scotland guidance notes that, if considered appropriate, parking attendant responsibilities can be undertaken alongside or within existing posts. No decisions have been made by the Council at this stage on how a DPE scheme would operate, including regarding traffic wardens.

**Will all areas in the region be the same, with the same rules?**

It is recognised that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach suitable for the region as a whole. Different approaches will be taken to reflect local context and circumstances.

**Will my local area be impacted?**

The Regional Parking Strategy will cover the Dumfries & Galloway as a whole. However, it will recognise that what is suitable for one location may not be appropriate for another; for example within the town centres of Dumfries and Stranraer compared to rural villages.

**Q: I am a blue badge holder, will the changes affect me?**

The Blue Badge scheme will continue to operate as it does currently. If you park in accordance with the Blue Badge scheme rules, you would not receive a PCN. The Regional Parking Strategy will give due consideration to the needs of disabled motorists.

**What is the pavement parking ban?**

The Transport (Scotland) Act was approved by the Scottish Government in 2019. It has yet to be implemented. However, it incorporates bans on pavement parking, double parking and parking at dropped kerbs, and gives local authorities the relevant powers to enforce these new provisions. The Act also gives local authorities the power to exempt footways from the pavement parking prohibition in certain circumstances.

**How will this be implemented by the Council?**

The Council is engaging with Transport Scotland to understand the impact and implications of the Transport (Scotland) Act, including the pavement parking ban. Further information will be provided in due course.

**What consultation is being undertaken?**

The consultation process includes Community Conversations, running from September to November 2023. A series of community conversation events are being held across the region. They are an opportunity for residents, business and stakeholders to engage directly with the council, and to help shape the new Regional Parking Strategy. The events are accessible to people in each of the council's twelve wards, as well as an online event. In addition, an online survey is being run to gather people's views. <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/26982/Consultation-New-Regional-Parking-Strategy-for-Dumfries-and-Galloway>

**Are hard copies of the online survey available?**

Yes. Hard copies are available at all Community Conversations and via [NetworkStrategyTeam@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:NetworkStrategyTeam@dumgal.gov.uk)