



Decriminalised Parking – Q & A's

Q. What is DPE?

A. DPE stands for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. It describes the process for controlling parking and the issuing of fines – it makes the offence a civil matter rather than a criminal one.

Q. When will DPE be introduced in East Renfrewshire?

A. The target date or “Go Live” date is Tuesday 2nd April 2013.

Q. Will there be a trial period or dummy run before the “Go Live” date?

A. Yes – the system will be tested and an operational pilot is expected to take place in March 2013.

Q. Why is East Renfrewshire Council introducing DPE?

A. Due to other competing priorities the Police are unable to fully resource parking enforcement within the East Renfrewshire Council area. As the Council consider that parking control is essential to manage our road network safely and to ensure the smooth flow of traffic it was seen as appropriate that the Council should take on this responsibility.

Q. Can East Renfrewshire Council hand the operation of DPE back to the Police?

A. No – there is no hand back option.

Q. Will the Police still have any involvement in parking matters?

A. The police will continue to deal with vehicles which are parked in such a way as to cause an obstruction and parking on pedestrian crossing zig-zags.

Q. What benefits will the Council derive?

A. The Council will be able to directly deploy our Parking Attendants to areas where there is a need. We will be able to patrol areas around schools (School Keep Clear Markings) and will see safety benefits due to improved visibility at junctions, as well as operational benefits due to extra lane capacity.

Q. Will there be a media campaign in advance of the Go Live date?

A. Yes – there will be a PR/Media/Communications campaign taking place in the run up to implementation to assist in understanding the new parking enforcement arrangements .

Q. Are all Councils introducing Decriminalised Parking Enforcement?

A. Not all Councils have yet decriminalised parking but with the withdrawal of Police enforcement most are likely to do so. Glasgow City Council has been operating Decriminalised Parking Enforcement since 1999 and our neighbouring authorities (Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire) all have a scheme in place.

Q. Have additional resources been required to implement or run DPE?

A. No permanent posts have been created. We have recruited a Graduate Intern for a period of 12 months and this post has been grant funded from Strathclyde Passenger Transport, the Regional Transport Partnership.

Q. Will this simply be a money making exercise?

A. No – the Council expect to only cover their costs. However if there is any annual surplus it will be re-invested into improvements to the network e.g. car parks being resurfaced or simply to fund on-going revenue costs associated with parking. All costs are held in a separate parking account and the operation is expected to be self-financing.

Q. What will the level of a parking fine be?

A. The fine or Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) is £60, although this is reduced by 50% to £30 if paid within 14 days.

Q. Can I pay my fine on-line?

A. Not initially, although we are hoping to set up an online payment process soon. The simplest way to pay is by phone. A dedicated number will be printed on the Parking Charge Notice.

Q. Can I pay cash to the Parking attendant?

A. No

Q. How will I know what a Parking attendant looks like?

A. All Parking Attendants will wear a uniform and a hat. They will be clearly identifiable and will have a unique badge number and East Renfrewshire Council logo.

Q. What evidence will be collected along with the Parking Charge Notice?

A. All Parking attendants will use an electronic Hand held device that stores the information and produces the ticket. Each Parking Attendant will take photos of the vehicle in situ and will also have body cameras that can record any incidents or inappropriate behaviour.

Q. How do I know what restrictions are on-street?

A. All on-street restrictions except No Waiting at any time (Double Yellow Lines) legally require to have signs (TRO plates) erected at prescribed intervals.

Q. Are there any mitigating circumstances and who decides if Parking Charge Notices are cancelled?

A. All appeals are dealt with in writing only. This is the only way that a PCN can be challenged. No verbal discussions will be allowed. Written appeals are dealt with by a controlled process and in accordance with the operating procedures.

Q. Will any of the Traffic Regulation Orders be amended?

A. In order to get DPE up and running all our existing Traffic Regulation Orders (Legal document that states where all on-street restrictions are in force) are being consolidated into area wide orders. A review of TRO's will be undertaken after Decriminalised Parking Enforcement has commenced.

Q. Will my car get towed away?

A. The Council will have the power to instruct tow aways, although we don't envisage this as being necessary. If persistent offenders are found to be avoiding payments then action may have to be taken in respect of towing away vehicles. The police still retain powers for towing away vehicles.

Q. Will I get a Parking Charge Notice if I park in a disabled bay?

A. If you don't hold a valid blue badge then you are liable to be given a Parking Charge Notice. Even if you hold a valid blue badge but simply fail to display it properly you may still get a PCN.

Q. What will happen if I park in a bus bay or at a bus stop?

A. You will only receive a Parking Charge Notice if you park on the wide single yellow line or if another on street restriction exists

Q. If I park in a Cycle Lane, will I receive a Parking Charge Notice?

A. If there is an on-street restriction in place will you get a PCN.

Q. Will there be any restrictions within Public Car Parks?

A. Yes - there will be a Traffic Regulation Order that separately covers public car parks. This order will ensure that anybody that parks outwith a marked bay or restricts access will be liable to receive a Parking Charge Notice.

Q. Where can I find out more information?

Council Website

e-mail parking@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Telephone 0141 577 3417