

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The County of Carmarthenshire (Off-Street Parking Places)

Consolidation (Variation No.6) Order 2025

Carmarthenshire County Council (“the Council”) proposes introducing parking charges at selected off-street car parks that are currently free of charge. This Statement of Reasons outlines the arguments for the proposed changes.

1. Financial Sustainability and Cost Recovery

- The Council incurs significant and ongoing costs in maintaining off-street car parks, including surface repairs, lighting, enforcement, cleaning and business rates.
- The introduction of parking charges will enable the Council to recover a portion of these costs, ensuring the long-term viability of parking infrastructure without placing undue pressure on general council tax revenue.

2. Fairness and Consistency Across the County

- Several towns within Carmarthenshire already operate paid parking schemes. Introducing parking charges within car parks that currently don’t impose a fee promotes consistency and fairness across communities.
- This approach also ensures that all users contribute equitably to the upkeep of parking facilities, regardless of location.

3. Improved Traffic Management and Turnover

- Free parking often leads to long-stay occupancy and reduced turnover, limiting access for short-term visitors and shoppers.
- Charging modest fees encourages more efficient use of parking spaces, improving availability and supporting local businesses by increasing footfall.

4. Environmental and Sustainable Transport Goals

- Introducing charges aligns with the Council’s sustainability objectives by encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport such as walking, cycling, and public transit.
- Reduced reliance on private vehicles contributes to lower emissions and improved air quality.

5. Reinvestment in Local Infrastructure

- Surplus revenue generated from parking charges will be reinvested into local transport infrastructure, public realm improvements, and enhanced parking services.
- This supports broader regeneration and economic development goals across Carmarthenshire.