



Parking Strategy



The Council is working to develop a draft Parking Strategy, a document that sets out how we can provide enough good quality space for parking across Central Bedfordshire. The council would like to hear your views to help shape the Strategy's proposals.

The strategy looks at three key areas and sets out a series of proposed aims for each. These key areas are:

- The quantity of parking spaces in Central Bedfordshire
- The quality of parking spaces in Central Bedfordshire
- Our approach to parking charges and restrictions

Details of these three areas can be found in the consultation paper, and short explanations of them are included within this questionnaire.

You can have your say by returning completing this questionnaire by Wednesday 24 August 2016. If you are using the paper version of this form, return it using the freepost address at the end of the document.

There will be other opportunities to have your say on parking in Central Bedfordshire.

When the Parking Strategy is adopted, feedback from local assessments will help us to understand if there are any areas in Central Bedfordshire where local parking needs to be improved.

If there are any plans for your area you will have the opportunity to have your say as part of a further consultation before any changes are introduced.

Aims

Q1 The Council's vision is that 'The parking strategy aims to support the effective and safe operation of the current road network as well as delivering solutions which help our town centres to grow and enables residents and businesses to access our services.'

How far do you agree or disagree with this overall aim?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Q2 How far do you agree or disagree that this overall aim is achievable?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly disagree

If not, please explain why:

Objectives

Q3 The Council has a number of objectives for the strategy. Please select 3 of the below that you consider to be a priority for you.

- Make Central Bedfordshire and its town centres as accessible to residents, businesses and visitors as possible to ensure growth and prosperity.
- Ensure that parking schemes for residents, businesses and visitors are well managed
- Promote the safety of all road users
- Ensure that there is sufficient and appropriate parking for new developments
- Fulfil our statutory requirements for the parking we provide
- Help ensure that our roads are well managed
- Provide alternative travel choices that are sustainable
- Provide effective enforcement of parking restrictions
- Work in partnership with other off street providers so that we can provide the best service possible

Q4 How far do you agree or disagree that these objectives are achievable?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

If not, please explain why?

Q5 When thinking about parking, which of the below are important to you: (please select all that apply)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Opening times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost | |

If other, please specify:

Our approach - Quantity

A key aim of the Parking Strategy is ensuring that we have enough parking spaces across the area to meet our needs. With this in mind we propose to assess the parking requirements of each local area, with the following objectives in mind:

- Creating more spaces for short stay and visitor parking to boost the local economy
- Locating commuter parking away from busy areas, including town centres, and encouraging the creation of Park and Rides
- Creating more parking spaces at train stations where this is needed
- Using standards to govern the amount of parking required as part of new developments. These standards will come from the council's Design Guide, which sets out guidelines to ensure new development is of the highest quality
- Ensuring that there is enough space for freight vehicles such as lorries
- Creating more spaces for school traffic, to avoid dangerous parking around school entrances/exits

Q6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Q7 Please explain your response to Q6:

Our approach - Quality

Whilst we want to create more parking spaces, we also want to ensure that these are good enough to use. Therefore, we propose to improve our car parks with features such as:

- Smarter and electronic payment methods
- Lighting & security controls
- Spaces for motorbikes
- Secure spaces for bicycles
- Electric Vehicle charging points
- Disabled parking bays
- Parent & child bays

We would also seek to create more secure spaces for cycle parking in towns, schools, local centres, health centres and key public transport stops.

In order to ensure that spaces for parking are used effectively we also propose to encourage the use of car clubs, schemes in which residents can hire out a shared pool of cars. We would reserve parking spaces for those using car clubs.

Q8 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

Q9 Please explain your response to Q8:

In setting aside space for parking, we are also committed to providing adequately for people with disabilities. As we assess each area's needs, we will consider the following when deciding how to provide spaces suitable for people with disabilities:

- Whether the creation of the space (s) would affect the safety of other road users
- Whether the space(s) would be used often enough
- Whether the space(s) would cause serious difficulties for other road users

Q10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this way of deciding when and where to provide parking spaces for people with disabilities?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

Q11 Please explain your response to Q11:

Q12 Do you feel there is currently enough disabled parking available across Central Bedfordshire?

- Yes Unsure
 No

Our approach - Parking control and pricing

In order to ensure parking spaces can be used in a way that benefits everyone, we are proposing to regulate the way they are used. These measures include adjusting the price of parking in certain areas, and also restricting parking where necessary.

Our proposals for regulating the price of parking include:

- Setting higher prices for on-street parking than off-street parking to reduce congestion in the streets
- Considering Sunday parking charges where there is problem with congestion or air quality, or where there is higher demand from shoppers and visitors
- Introducing pay and display for on-street parking where there is congestion or an impact on local residents from parking

Q13 To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals for adjusting the price of parking?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

Q14 Please explain your response to Q13:

Our proposals for restriction and/or regulating parking in certain areas include:

- Limiting long-stay parking in laybys, particularly by lorries, where this causes problems for other road users or local communities
- Increasing regulation around schools where this is needed to improve safety
- Restricting parking and loading in areas where this would be dangerous, such as junctions and busy areas
- Permitting residents of new residential properties or conversions in town centres to purchase a residents permit for use within the town centre long stay car parks where possible

Q15 To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals to regulate parking in certain areas?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

Q16 Please explain your response to Q15:

Final comments

Q17 Do you have any final comments?

About You

This section of the survey is about you. The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting the views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. You can read more about why we ask these questions on our website.

Q18 Are you responding as: (please select one)

If you are not responding as a resident or commuter, you may skip Questions 19-22.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary or Community Organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town and Parish Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please specify which Town and Parish Council:

Please specify the name of your organisation:

If other, please state:

Q19 Are you: (please select one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Q20 What is your age? (please select one)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-59 yrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64 yrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 yrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 yrs + |

Q21 Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (please select one)

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Q22 To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (please select one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British | |

If other, please specify:

Q23 What is your home or organisation's postcode?

This will only be used for analysis purposes and will not be used to identify you in any way.

Q24 If you would like to receive alerts for any new consultations, please provide your email address below to be added to the list:

Thank you.

Please return your completed form to:
FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)
Parking Strategy aims consultation
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of the Parking Strategy consultation. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of central Bedfordshire Council and its partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete