

# **Changes to Parking in North Tyneside**

## **Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)**

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### **What will it mean to me?**

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) comes into effect from 24 June 2007. From this date the powers to enforce yellow line and parking space offences will be transferred to North Tyneside Council from Northumbria Police, with enforcement by North Tyneside Council parking attendants.

North Tyneside Council is retaining control of parking as an in-house operation. The Parking Control Section, based at Killingworth, will manage enforcement and administration and for the first time there will be a single point of control for public parking within North Tyneside.

### **Does this mean I can park anywhere?**

No. Parking enforcement is no longer the responsibility of Northumbria Police, but local authorities are taking over that role. Through Decriminalised Parking (DPE) councils aim to increase the level of enforcement on our streets, therefore you will be much more likely to receive a PCN if you contravene the yellow line and off-street parking regulations.

### **Where and when does enforcement take place?**

DPE covers the whole of North Tyneside, including all publicly maintained roads and car parks. Enforcement is carried out on all days and at any time a restriction is in force.

The frequency of patrols can be adjusted in response to specific needs and conditions - for instance if there is a particular problem in an area, resources can be concentrated there.

## **What will the police now be doing?**

The police will no longer be responsible for the enforcement of any permanent waiting, loading or parking restrictions. They will however continue to be responsible for some temporary waiting restrictions, especially special events.

The police will continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) for:

- parking on pedestrian crossing zig-zags – this remains an offence and carries penalty points
- Obstruction of a footway (where no restriction exists)
- Obstruction of a private access/driveway (where no restriction exists)
- All moving offences i.e. one-way, no entry etc.

## **What is the difference between council parking attendants and traffic wardens?**

Although parking attendants look similar to traffic wardens, they are employed by the council and not Northumbria Police. Parking attendants issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) not Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's)/ Excess Charge Notices (ECN's). Council parking attendants will be clearly identifiable by means of their black uniform, blue cap band and the council logo / crest which is included on their uniform.

## **How much does a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) cost?**

For all contraventions both within an off or on-street parking location, the PCN is £60, reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days. If no payment is made or you do not respond to our letters the charge is increased to £90.

## **Does the council have PCN targets?**

No, there is no target for the number of PCN's that a parking attendant must achieve. All parking attendants have undergone comprehensive training to achieve nationally recognised standards of competence. They do not receive commission on the number of PCN's issued.

## **Where does all the money go?**

The money received through the scheme is used only for the enforcement regime, for administration, improvement to parking and transport-related initiatives.

## **What are the benefits?**

The increased level of enforcement will:

- reduce congestion and keep North Tyneside moving,
- remove inconsiderate, illegal and dangerous parking,
- support local businesses and the continuing vitality of our town centres by discouraging long-term illegal parking

- improve safety outside schools
- support disabled parking and prevent blue badge abuse
- help vehicles loading and unloading
- protect residents' parking

### **Will it affect local businesses and shops?**

Many businesses and shops are in short stay parking areas which will benefit from increased levels of patrol and enforcement. This should dissuade motorists from parking for more than the permitted time so it will be easier for shoppers to find a space. Businesses and shops will benefit from being able to load and unload their goods more easily. A loading/unloading waiver or dispensation is also to be made available. (see separate waiver/dispensation information on this site)

### **Will the council be operating clamping and removing?**

At present it is not intended to introduce clamping or removals.