Frequently asked questions

Why is Newham proposing such wide-ranging changes to its parking policies?

Newham’s parking policies do not currently meet air quality or public health objectives and have not been comprehensively reviewed since 2012. The new proposals are the result of ongoing consultation over the past 12 months and are long-overdue.

What is the issue with Newham’s air quality?

Last year, the Council declared a climate emergency and published a 25-point action plan to address the challenges of poor air quality in the borough. Part of these measures included ways to reduce the amount of pollution created by vehicles.

I’ve never had to pay for a parking permit before. Why should I have to pay to park outside my home?

Newham has the worst air quality in the UK, 96 people die prematurely due to the poor quality of the air that they breathe. A recent report from the British Heart Foundation showed that living in Newham is the equivalent of smoking 159 cigarettes a year. The proposals for residential parking charges brings Newham into line with all but one other London borough.

I’m on a low income, why is the council not being fairer in its approach to permit charges?

As part of the review of our parking policies, we’ve sought to be fair in our approach. We know that the majority of residents (52%) do not have access to a private vehicle. The proposals to charge for permits and link them to the emissions created by the 48% of residents who do have access to a vehicle, seeks to ensure that those who create the most pollution, pay towards the remedial measures we must introduce to tackle poor air quality.

What are the proposed residential parking permit charges?

The proposed parking charges for residents include the introduction of five emissions based vehicle charging bands (based on DVLA groupings used by HMRC for vehicle taxation).

The Council estimates that the largest group of vehicles (almost 23,000) registered in the borough will be liable for a modest residential permit charge of £60 per year.

For households with multiple vehicles the total cost of permits will be the permit emission tier charge for each household vehicle, plus additional vehicle supplementary charges of £100 for the 2nd vehicle and £200 for the 3rd or any additional vehicles registered at an address in the borough.
For example:

- A household with two cars will pay the emission charge for the first vehicle and an emission charge for the second vehicle, plus the additional vehicle supplement of £100
- A household with three cars will pay the emission charge for each of the three vehicles, plus the additional vehicle supplement of £100 for the second vehicle and £200 for the third vehicle

How did you decide on the parking charges you have set?

We estimate that the largest group of vehicles will be liable for a modest residential permit charge of £60 per year, about £1.15 per week.

The maximum vehicle charge for the most polluting vehicles will be £200 (£16.67/month or £3.85/week) which is considered reasonable and affordable.

The range of charges we proposed for Newham residents’ vehicles are still lower than over 50% of other similar and neighbouring boroughs like Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

This feels like the Council is just imposing these charges to make money?

The proposals are aimed at improving air quality through the introduction of emissions based charging. Any funds raised from parking revenues must, by law, be reinvested ONLY into the roads and transport. Parking charges cannot be used to raise general Council revenue. Any money raised will be reinvested in improving our roads and streets and we will be drawing up plans to allow residents to suggest improvements in their area.

The borough has a number of major roads (A13, A406) and also has an airport, surely my car isn't going to cause much of an issue for air quality?

There is no silver bullet for tackling air quality. But we know that there are severe health impacts to our residents caused by emissions from motor vehicles, particularly among young and elderly residents. We must each must take responsibility for helping improve the local environment by contributing less pollution wherever possible. For example our air quality monitors already show how much worse local air quality gets near schools during the school run.

We know that this is just one part of the bigger picture. That's why the Council are working with the GLA to tackle pollution on the major roads not controlled by Newham. It is also why we oppose the building of the Silvertown Tunnel and are against further expansion of the airport.

What incentives are you offering people who move to greener vehicles?

A free permit is retained for all vehicles with CO2 emissions less than 50g/km, which includes all fully electric and most newer plug-in hybrid vehicles. Government grants for new electric vehicles are also available and similar assistance will be provided to those residents who wish to apply. The Council will also be delivering a network of residential electric vehicle charging points for those residents without off-street parking. A total of 40 double medium-fast charging units (capable of charging 80 vehicles) will be delivered across the Borough by
April 2020. A further 40 double chargers and a number of ultra-rapid chargers will follow later in 2020.

**I am a business and will already be impacted by the Ultra Low Emission Zone charges. How are your new parking proposals going to impact my business?**

Business permit charges will become emission based, with zero and hybrid emissions vehicles receiving free business permits and new charges introduced for three further emission tiers. We estimate 60% of business permits will be either the same price as now or free. A list of business charges can be found [here](#).

**Why are you increasing on street parking charges?**

On and off street parking charges have remained the same since 2012. We are proposing to increase on street parking charges by 15 per cent across the board, in line with retail price inflation and rises in public transport fares since the last review.

**I don't use a computer and am worried about how I will apply for a resident's permit under your plans to go paperless?**

As part of the ambitious changes to our parking proposals, we will be moving to paperless permits. If you do not have access to a computer at home or from a friend or family member then you can visit any of Newham’s 10 libraries where you will be given free use a computer, scanner or printer. As part of the consultation we are seeking views on other types of support our residents may need to assist them with this transition.

**I don't have a phone app, how will I pay to park if you are moving to cashless parking?**

The vast majority of the borough is already operating under cashless parking. As part of our aims to modernise the parking system we will seek to remove the remaining pay and display parking machines. Parking can be paid via a pay-by-phone App system across the borough. For those without access to a smart phone or who prefer to pay by cash, parking can also be paid at over 150 PayPoint locations spread all across the borough.

**How will the “parking wallet” work?**

A new online system will allow for the replacement of paper resident and visitor permits with 'virtual parking wallets' and 'parking credits' for residents. Parking wallets will contain an allocation of parking credits which residents will be able to use for free parking in town centres and for other important family or social trips. We are consulting with residents about other aspects of the parking wallet in our consultation to make it as useful as possible.

**Where can I respond to the parking consultation?**

The online consultation can be found [www.newham.gov.uk/parkingconsultation](http://www.newham.gov.uk/parkingconsultation). Residents and businesses are encouraged to respond by March 22, 2020.