

STATEMENT OF REASONS

PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

WINCHESTER CITY (OFF STREET) PARKING PLACES ORDER 2026

Winchester City Council is proposing to make the above new Off Street Parking Order in order to simplify and update the management of all car parks in the Winchester District for which the Council is responsible for. This includes the Park and Ride sites which are managed by Winchester City Council and all off street car parks including those car parks in Alresford, Wickham, Bishops Waltham and Denmead.

The effect of this order will be to consolidate The Winchester City (Off Street) Parking Order 2003, its 11 variations, two Alresford Off Street Parking Orders, the 2010 Wickham Off Street Parking Order and the 2003 Park and Ride Order and its two variations.

The new order will also:

- Update articles and definitions to reflect 2025 terminology and technology.
- Include Electric Vehicle Charging Places and associated articles.
- Include changes to weight limits of multi-storey car parks to take into account the weight of electric vehicles and current larger vehicles.
- Remove the Park & Ride RingGo Wallet discounted tickets, due to the supplier removing this product.
- Introduce no return within 4 hours at the Alresford Station Car Park in line with the requirements of the lease between the Council and the Mid-Hants Railway.

The new order will also include the proposed variation 12 of the 2003 Off Street Parking Order which is yet to be made, reflecting The Brooks Car Park current opening hours. The Brooks Shopping Centre changed the opening hours of the shopping centre and now prevents access to the car park from 5.30pm and closes the exit at 6.30pm. Although the information signs have been amended to reflect these changes the tariff boards at the car park payment machines still display chargeable periods as from 8am - 7pm. This causes customer confusion and has resulted in some cars being locked within the underground car park. A change to the legal parking places order is required to bring the legal order in line with the new opening and closing times of The Brooks Shopping Centre, and then to amend the tariff boards accordingly, thus removing the current confusion and impact on customers.

Sections 122(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 have been considered in the design of this proposal together with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

Section 122 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The Council has a duty under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") when making TROs to consider expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. This requires the Council to weigh up several factors when making a decision to proceed with a proposal including if applicable:

- The desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises.
- The effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run.
- The national air strategy.
- The importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles.
- Any other matters appearing to the Council to be applicable.

The existing Off Street Parking Order is over 20 years old. An updated order, will recognise the current legal situation seen in the Council's car parks and will include new terminology and technology. It will allow the current 5 orders and 13 variations to be consolidated into one order, making it a more simplified document for all to view.

Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has taken place. No issues with the replacement of the Off Street order have been identified. The New order reflects the current operational situation in all the Council's car parks across the district.