



...regarding Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicles Holder Concessions

This leaflet provides information on the three options being proposed for the current free parking concession for Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicles from May 2016. Please read the information carefully before completing your Consultation Form enclosed.

Why have I been sent this Consultation?

We are writing to all Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicle Holders who have registered their vehicle with Borough of Poole inviting them to have their say about the proposals and how the proposed options may affect them.

This consultation will also be open to any interested party who would like to give their views on the proposals.

Why propose changes to the car park concession for Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicles?

- For many years Borough of Poole has offered free parking in all its pay and display car parks for vehicles which are Disability Tax Exempt.
- Before October 2014, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) provided a tax disc that showed the exemption which meant that there was no cost to the council in administering this scheme, other than the loss of car parking income.
- In October 2014 DVLA ceased issuing paper tax discs for vehicles to display.
- To assist local authorities in continuing to offer the free parking concession, DVLA designed a web portal which would allow us to check the tax class of all vehicles to determine if a vehicle was entitled to free parking.
- However, following complaints about this information being in the public domain, DVLA removed the web portal, which meant that we could no longer check eligibility.
- To overcome this issue and to continue providing this free car parking concession, Borough of Poole began to compile a local database of Disability Tax Exempt Holders.
- This database is reliant on the vehicle owner providing evidence of their exemption to the council.



- It is estimated that the cost to the council of providing a locally registered database and enforcement service, based on approximately 1,000 registered Disability Tax Exempt Holders, will be £60,000 in 2015/16.

This additional cost comes at a time when central government funding for local services provided by Borough of Poole is likely to reduce from £15 million to zero by 2021 at the latest. This reduction is the equivalent of £230 a year for every household in Poole. At the same time, demand for council services is increasing and it is estimated that Borough of Poole must make further saving of between £18 million to £20 million over the next four years. This means it will be much harder to balance the council's budget, deliver universal services and meet our core duties such as protecting children and supporting the elderly and vulnerable.

To continue to do the best we can for Poole residents, we have to look at everything we do and the way we do it. The council has to live within its means by:

- further cutting costs and redesigning services
- generating new income streams to support local services
- reviewing fees and charges

Every effort will be made to deliver the council's priorities and protect local services by cutting our costs and finding efficiencies. However the scale of the savings required will inevitably mean changes in the way services are delivered and some service reductions.

As the proposed options for the car parking concession involve charging a fee, we would like your views on this.

What are the proposals?

The Council is consulting on three proposed options regarding the free parking concession for Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicles:

1. To provide a one year permit for £25 to cover administration only. This permit will enable you to park without having to pay for a ticket
2. To provide a three year permit for £60 to cover administration only. This permit will enable you to park without having to pay for a ticket
3. For Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicle Holders to pay for a parking ticket each time they park

Should there be any further changes to the registered information held such as change of address or vehicle, the Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicle Holders will not incur any additional fees.



The proposed options for car park permit fees ensure that the Council provides a cost-neutral service to Disabled Tax Exempt Vehicle Holders in all cases.

How to have your say?

Please take the time to complete the feedback form with this document to give us your views about these options. You can:

- give your views online at www.poole.gov.uk/DTEVC
- return your form to us in the freepost envelope provided

The closing date for the consultation is **Friday 29 January 2016**.

What happens next?

Once the consultation feedback has been analysed, the results will be presented to the Borough of Poole's Transport Advisory Group on 10 March 2016, with a view to introducing any changes from 2 May 2016.

More information about our options for free car park concessions for Disability Tax Exempt Vehicles can be found at www.poole.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/car-parking-charges.

	We can give you help to read or understand this information
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	poole.gov.uk/accessibility