

Parking Services Annual Report 2025/2026

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking



1. Forward



Councillor Jon Andrews
Cabinet Member for Place Services

Welcome to the Parking Services annual report for Dorset Council for 2025/2026.

Parking remains a vital service for Dorset Council, supporting the needs of residents, businesses, commuters, visitors, schools, and Blue Badge holders. Providing the right parking solutions for each location helps maintain steady traffic flow, keep highways clear, and enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

This year has continued to see steady improvements to the service, including resurfacing works in several car parks. These enhancements were particularly important following the prolonged periods of heavy rainfall experienced across Dorset at the beginning of 2026, which had contributed to surface deterioration in some locations.

2. Introduction

Dorset is a distinctive and diverse county, known for its stunning beaches, rolling countryside, and historic market towns. With a rich and well-documented heritage, it successfully blends historic character with forward-looking development, including modern infrastructure and expanding digital connectivity.



Dorset Council Parking Services manages on-street parking in town centres as well as off-street parking across town, coastal, and rural destinations. Because these areas vary significantly in size, population, available amenities, and levels of tourism, parking tariffs are designed to reflect the specific needs and characteristics of each location.

The purpose of this report is to provide financial, statistical and performance data relating to Parking in Dorset Council and covers the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Reports for previous years can be found on Dorset Council's website at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking>

3. Enforcement

The table below shows the number of PCNs issued from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026, categorised by the type of contravention and level of PCN.

PCN statistic	2024/2025		2025/2026	
	On-street	Off-street	On-street	Off-street
Higher Level PCNs issued	12300	1729	14906	2110
Lower Level PCNs issued	5477	8299	7084	10611
Total PCNs issued	17777	10028	21990	12721
PCNs paid at discount rate	11002	5865	13672	7443
PCNs paid at non-discount rate	2063	1202	2526	1574
Total PCNs paid	13065	7067	16198	9017
	73%	70%	74%	71%
Total PCNs unpaid	4712	2961	5792	3704
PCNs registered at TEC ¹	3080	1515	4818	2337
Appeals/Representations received	3058	2367	3800	2931
PCNs cancelled through the use of discretion or due to evidence being supplied	728	947	1004	1081
PCNs cancelled for statutory reasons	18	5	69	26
Total PCNs cancelled	746	952	1073	1107
PCNs going to Adjudication	12	2	4	3
PCNs written off (untraceable keepers)	286	131	219	165

Please note that the figures for paid and unpaid PCNs can vary significantly depending on when they were issued. For instance, if many PCNs were issued towards the end of the period, a higher number might appear unpaid as they are still within the initial two-week challenge period.

Additionally, an increase in the number of unpaid PCNs is expected due to the overall rise in PCNs issued.

¹ Traffic Enforcement Centre

4. Financial Data

Income and expenditure statement 2025/2026

	2024/2025 (£)	2025/2026 (£)
Expenditure		
Internal Charges (Expenditure)	308,904	280,301
Pay Related Costs	1,340,960	1,345,251
Premises Related Costs	1,598,056	2,181,219
Transport Related Costs	88,601	100,183
Supplies and Services	858,447	1,015,836
Third Party (Contracted Out) Payments	30,075	62,366
Total Expenditure	4,225,043	4,985,156
Income		
Parking Waivers & Permits	1,261,254	1,307,513
Pay & Display Charges	1,861,232	1,571,215
Pay & Display Card (Income)*	3,482,980	4,099,107
Mobile Phone Charges (Income)	3,866,162	4,325,167
Penalty Charge Notices	844,416	923,877
Internal Charges (Income)	201,387	217,286
Other income	205,360	201,697
Total Income	11,722,791	12,645,865
Financial adjustments		
Deficit/Surplus	7,497,748	7,660,709