

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Parking services to become fairer

Improvements to the way parking services are managed will make the system fairer, East Sussex County Council has said.

New regulations, which come in on 31 March as part of the Traffic Management Act 2004, will represent the most radical shake up of enforcement in England and Wales for many years.

They will include a new 'two-tier' system of fines to make the roads safer by deterring motorists from committing more serious offences which could cause harm to others, like parking on double yellow lines.

The County Council will also be able to act against more offences, such as parking on zebra crossing zig-zags, where it manages parking.

Cllr Matthew Lock, Lead Member for Transport and Environment, said: "We will now be able to issue penalties that fit the offence, rather than have a one-size-fits-all approach. That means that if someone parks in a disabled bay or on double yellow lines, then they will pay the higher fine.

"However, if someone's pay and display ticket runs out, they will pay the lower fine, which is a much fairer way of dealing with very different situations. This new system will

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make parking schemes everywhere more fit for their purpose, which is to reduce congestion and free up parking spaces for those who really need them."

East Sussex County Council will introduce the new charges as part of a national overhaul of parking rules.

The fine for lesser offences will be £50 instead of the present £60. More serious penalties will go up by £10 to £70. All the fines will be halved if paid within 14 days, as they already are.

In certain circumstances there will no longer be a need for a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to be placed on a vehicle, or handed to a driver in order for it to be properly served as the new rules allow the PCN to be posted to the registered keeper of the vehicle.

The new regulations require improved training for employees involved in parking enforcement and councils to be more open and transparent about parking policies, carry out regular reviews of those policies in consultation with stakeholders and to communicate these policies effectively.

Independent adjudicators will have increased powers to refer appeal cases about PCNs back to local authorities when they consider that the Council should have used its discretion to cancel the penalty charge earlier.

For more information, visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/parking.

Notes for editors

East Sussex County Council enforces parking restrictions in Lewes District and is proposing to manage parking in Eastbourne.

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