

Local Authority Parking Finances in England 2017 - 18

1 Introduction

This report uses the MHCLG (formerly DCLG) tables on parking income and expenditure for the period from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (Office for National Statistics (2019)). All councils are required to report their financial information to government, in a consistent format, although there may be some differences in interpretation of what that format is and what it covers. Earlier, councils also submitted budgets for the 2018-19 financial year but on a less detailed basis (Office for National Statistics (2018)). These figures are included where appropriate. The figures have to be on an as-received cash basis without any provision for bad debts or any allowance for capital charges (interest or depreciation).

This report covers the 353 local authorities in England but excludes nine national parks which declare income from parking and show a total surplus of £1.8 million. It also excludes the Nottingham workplace parking levy which is estimated to have generated £9.0 million surplus in 2017-18.

The income and cost headings used in this analysis are:

1. On-street income, expenditure and income from penalty charges
2. Off-street income, expenditure
3. Total transport income, expenditure

These headings do not always agree with accounts published by local authorities because of their different treatment of overheads and allocation of surpluses to other transport projects. Furthermore six local authorities include off-street parking in their internal trading accounts which leads to further inconsistencies. These trading figures have been added to the revenue accounts.

2 Summary

Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for England (£ millions)

		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18 budget	2018-19 budget	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17
On-street	Fees & permits	432	472	424	501	525			5 %
	Penalties	343	328	397	388	428			10 %
	Total Income	775	800	821	889	954			7 %
	Expenditure	408	421	407	414	431			4 %
	Surplus	367	379	414	475	523			10 %
Off-street	Total Income	633	641	671	686	704			3 %
	Expenditure	340	335	336	341	355			4 %
	Surplus	292	307	335	345	349			1 %
All parking	Total Income	1,407	1,441	1,492	1,575	1,657			5 %
	Expenditure	749	755	743	755	786			4 %
	Surplus	659	686	750	820	872	791	882	6 %
All England transport	Net Expenditure	4,795	4,537	4,331	4,013	3,997	4,240	4,251	0 %
	Parking surplus as percentage of net transport expenditure	14 %	15 %	17 %	20 %	22 %	19 %	21 %	

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