

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 %	

* Cells may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Total income from parking in 2017-18 in England was £1.66 billion, 5.2 % higher than in 2016-17. On-street income rose by 7.3 % and off-street income by 2.6 % . Expenditure rose by 4.2 % for on-street and by 4.0 % off-street parking. As a result, the combined surplus from both on- and off-street parking was £872 million, 6.3% higher than the previous financial year and 32.3% higher than four years ago.

Local authorities exceeded their 2017-18 budgeted surplus of £791 million by 10.2 %. Their budgeted surplus for this next financial year (2018-19) is £882 million, 1.2% higher than the actual for 2017-18. If the 2018-19 budget is exceeded by the same proportion as the 2017-18 outcome, then total parking surpluses would amount to £972million.

The on-street parking surpluses must by law be used for transport projects. Overall, local transport net expenditure in 2017-18 remained relatively unchanged at £4.0 billion. Without the contribution from parking surpluses, net expenditure would have been 21.8% higher.

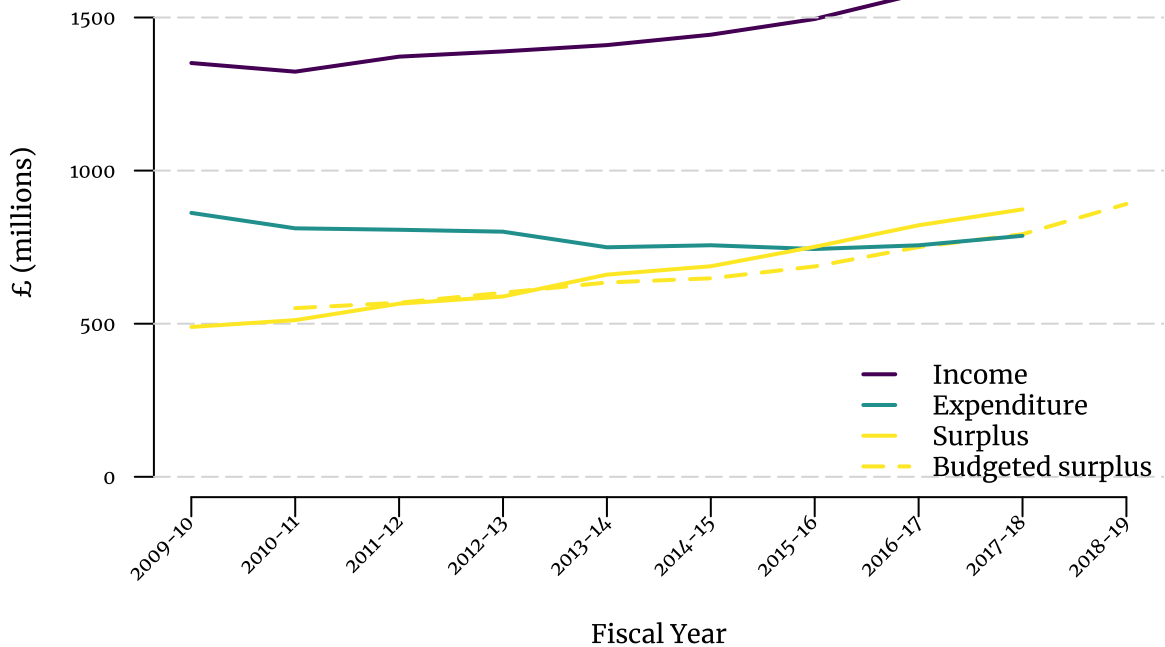


Figure 1: Parking revenues-England

Table 2: Summary of parking accounts for England (£ millions)

		London	Rest of England	All of England	London percentage
Income	On-street	628	325	954	65.90 %
	Off-street	52	652	704	7.32 %
	Total	680	977	1,657	41.03 %
Expenditure	On-street	240	191	431	55.71 %
	Off-street	34	321	355	9.50 %
	Total	274	512	786	34.83 %
Surplus	On-street	388	134	523	74.29 %
	Off-street	18	331	349	5.11 %
	Total	406	465	872	46.61 %

Only 7.6 % of London boroughs' parking income comes from off-street car parking as most off-street parking is commercially run. For the rest of England 66.7 % of income is from off-street parking.

The parking surplus in London was £406million, 46.6% of the total for England although London only has only 10% of the total cars in England but of course incoming commuters and visitors will contribute to parking fees and penalties which are much higher than in the rest of England.

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