



Please complete all sections below and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page to submit this Call-In Request Form.

Report title	Proposed Parking Tariffs for 2025/26
Date of decision	Tuesday 11 February 2025
Date Published	TBC
Who took the decision – for example, Executive Member/ Cabinet (& Date)	Cabinet (Tuesday 11 February 2025)
Objection / Reason for making the call-in – sufficient grounds for doing so, with any associated evidence on a separate sheet, if necessary	<p>During the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor announced a £25 billion tax on working people and businesses by increasing National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for employers.</p> <p>The Office for Budget Responsibility has suggested that three quarters of the impact of employer NICs will be felt by employees, even if the changes don't show up on payslips and therefore, as a direct consequence of the Autumn Budget, working people across North Hertfordshire will have less money in their pockets, resulting from increased inflation and wage stagnation.</p> <p>Increasing employer NICs threatens the prospect of economic growth in North Hertfordshire, as local businesses, particularly SMEs, will face significant cost increases thereby reducing the ability of businesses to make long-term investments within the district, and support the creation of new jobs for local people.</p> <p>Local businesses, particularly those located in our Town Centres not only face increased NICs, but rent, business rates and service charges have all seen increases in recent years with this trend set to continue.</p> <p><i>Continued below</i></p>
Date of call-in request	18 February 2025 - 21 February 2025

You can only make a request to call-in a decision if there is evidence that the decision was contrary to the principles of decision-making, as summarised in the Constitution at 4.8.23(b). Which of the following principles do you believe the decision did not take into account?

- Proportionality – this means the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome
- Due regard for the individuals and communities served by North Herts Council and their consultation.**
- Due regard for the professional advice from officers.
- Respect for human rights.
- A presumption in favour of openness
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes – [the link between strategy and implementation]
- The Council's budget and policy framework**

Additional Information to support the call-in
– continue on a separate sheet, if necessary

The Council is proposing to increase Town Centre Car Parking Charges for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

If implemented, this will increase the cost of parking in our Town Centres, which means local residents and visitors are more likely to use alternative shopping locations which provide parking for free or at a lower cost.

This would result in lower footfall in our town centres which many independent local businesses rely on and as such, will only seek to compound the challenges faced by local businesses in the new financial year of 2025/26.

This decision was not subject to discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and due to the political makeup of the Council as well as the potential adverse impact on the economy of North Hertfordshire, it would be in the public interest for there to be additional scrutiny of the decision which goes against the stated Council Plan priorities of ‘Thriving Communities’ and ‘Responsible Growth’.

Additional Scrutiny of this decision would allow Cabinet the benefit of opposition members putting forward suggestions as to how the Council can provide support to our Town Centres during the current economic climate

Call in requestees’ desired outcome

To refer the decision back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.	X
To refer the matter to full Council where the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers (upon the Chief Finance Officers advice) that the decision is contrary to the Policy and/or Budgetary Framework	X

N.B. An email from Members requesting the Call-In will be accepted as evidence of their signature and a copy of the email will be included as an attachment to this form when published for any Extraordinary meeting (where the Call-In is accepted).

Submitting Request Forms

Please ensure the above information is completed in full and returned to the Proper Officer within 5 working days of the decision being notified to Members.

Any requests received without completed sections, or outside of the 5 working days deadline, will not be considered.

Forms should be sent to: Monitoring.Officer@north-herts.gov.uk and ScrutinyOfficer@north-herts.gov.uk.

The sections below should be completed by the Proper Officer following a Request Form being received.

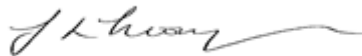
1. Does the request meet the call in threshold? Tick all that have been completed.

Five Members of the Council or the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny have made the request, and provided evidence of this.	5 members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Request Form has been received within the 5 working day deadline following the decision being notified	Initial email was received within 5 days and form supplied for completion thereafter. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons have been provided on the form above as to why this decision is requested for Call-In	Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Is the Call-In Request considered valid?

Yes	Unclear how this is contrary to the budget and policy framework. However, consultation / interests element accepted as a legitimate basis to seek scrutiny. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	
Reasons:	

Proper Officer signature: _____



Date: 21.5.25