

COUNCIL

24 April 2024

Questions from Members

Question 1: from Councillor Paul Clarke

Recent articles in the press have highlighted the problem of the expanding size of our cars and the impact of this on entering and exiting them. Surveys indicate that drivers have barely space the size of a standard cereal box to gain access to their vehicles. The average width of cars to quote The Times has gone from 5feet 6 inches to 5 feet 11 inches for ten popular family cars (168cm to 180 cm). We are in a program of continuous maintenance and upgrade of our car parks according to our capex program and forecast.

BPA guidelines recommend spaces are 7 feet 11 inches (240 cm) wide leaving typically 1 foot (30 cm) between the car and bay edge assuming a centred car. In 2022 guidance has been revised to 8 feet 6 inches (260 cm) width and lengths from 15 feet 8 inches (480 cm) to 16 feet (500 cm).

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources confirm that there is an ongoing program of critical appraisal of what we are doing on car parks when relining and refurbishing our car parks to reflect the changing girth of modern cars, be they electric or not, using the revised guidelines as minimum numbers in the future?