

COMMITTEE:	Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	10 June 2026
BY:	Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy
REPORT TITLE:	Petition PET0126 – Calling on East Lothian Council to pause town centre parking charge plans pending a holistic impact review and local consultation’
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present petition PET0126 to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee for consideration. The petition is entitled ‘Pause Town Centre Parking Charge Plans Pending a Holistic Impact Review and Local Consultation’.

1.2 The petition text reads:

We, the undersigned, call on East Lothian Council to pause the implementation of proposed town centre parking charges until a holistic, rigorous, and publicly accessible overarching impact review has been completed and its findings meaningfully consulted upon at local level.

Whilst individual reports and consultations have been undertaken for specific locations, there is no currently no single, comprehensive impact assessment that examines the cumulative social, economic, equality, accessibility, environmental and democratic impacts of the parking charges plans across all affected town centres.

Parking policy has significant consequences for:

- Local businesses and town centre vitality
- Disabled people, carers, and those with protected characteristics
- Low-income households and those reliant on private transport due to limited public alternatives.

- Civic trust, transparency, and confidence in local decision-making

Introducing charges prior to publishing and consulting on a robust overarching impact review risks undermining public confidence and excluding communities from informed participation in decisions that directly affect their daily lives.

We therefore petition East Lothian Council to:

- Pause implementation of all town centre parking charge plans
- Publish a holistic, council-wide impact assessment that:
 - Brings together economic, equality, accessibility, environmental and social impacts
 - Clearly explains assumptions, evidence, and anticipated outcomes
- Undertake local consultation on the findings of this assessment in each affected town
- Demonstrate how consultation feedback has informed final decisions before any implementation proceeds

Local democracy depends on decisions being evidence-led, transparent, and participatory. A pause to allow for a rigorous impact review and genuine consultation is not obstructionist; it is responsible governance.

This petition is submitted in the spirit of constructive engagement and in the interest of fair, inclusive, and accountable decision-making of East Lothian's communities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the petition and take action as required.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A petition was submitted on 30 April 2026 by Lindsey Horner, principal petitioner, and was deemed to be competent.
- 3.2 Further details of the petition are contained within the petition form at Appendix 1.

Signatories

- 3.3 At the time of writing, there were 4390 signatories to this petition.
- 3.4 Signatory names and post towns were provided to the Council. Although full contact addresses were not provided, as the petition had been created through Change.org, a reputable democratic tool which undertakes its own checks, it was felt that this was sufficient to satisfy competency criteria.
- 3.5 Of the signatory details provided, East Lothian addresses appeared most frequently. Although a number of signatories gave post towns from other parts of the UK, a majority had East Lothian and Edinburgh postcodes.
- 3.6 The petition is on Change.org: <https://www.change.org/p/pause-east-lothian-town-centre-parking-charge-plans-pending-impact-review-consultation>, and the submitted post town details can be provided to Committee members by contacting the Clerk to the Petitions Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate policy implications arising from this report. Depending on the action required and agreed by the Committee, there may be policy implications relating to particular issues arising from competent petitions. These will be subject to a separate report to the relevant committee, as required.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.2 Human Resources: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.4 Risk: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a

X

corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Petition form
- 7.2 Appendix 2: Officer's response to petition

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Becky Crichton
Designation	Committees Officer/Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee
Tel/Email	rcrichton@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	2 June 2026



Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	4 June 2026

APPENDIX 1



PETITION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Name of Principal Petitioner (and organisation if applicable) (Block Caps)	DR LINDSEY KATHERINE HORNER
Address of Principal Petitioner (inc Postcode) (Block Caps)	
Contact telephone number of Principal Petitioner	
Title of Petition	Pause Town Centre Parking Charge Plans Pending a Holistic Impact Review and Local Consultation
Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..	<p>We, the undersigned, call on East Lothian Council to pause the implementation of proposed town centre parking charges until a holistic, rigorous, and publicly accessible overarching impact review has been completed and its findings meaningfully consulted upon at local level.</p> <p>While individual reports and consultations have been undertaken for specific locations, there is currently no single, comprehensive impact assessment that examines the cumulative social, economic, equality, accessibility, environmental, and democratic impacts of the parking charge plans across all affected town centres.</p> <p>Parking policy has significant consequences for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local businesses and town centre vitality • disabled people, carers, and those with protected characteristics • low-income households and those reliant on private transport due to limited public alternatives

All Petitions should be forwarded to: Clerk to the Petitions Committee, Legal & Democratic Services, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH31 3HA or handed in at Main Reception, John Muir House, Haddington

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• civic trust, transparency, and confidence in local decision-making <p>Introducing charges prior to publishing and consulting on a robust overarching impact review risks undermining public confidence and excluding communities from informed participation in decisions that directly affect their daily lives.</p>
<p>What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?</p>	<p>We therefore petition East Lothian Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pause implementation of all town centre parking charge plans• Publish a holistic, council-wide impact assessment that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ brings together economic, equality, accessibility, environmental, and social impacts◦ clearly explains assumptions, evidence, and anticipated outcomes• Undertake local consultation on the findings of this assessment in each affected town• Demonstrate how consultation feedback has informed final decisions before any implementation proceeds
<p>Please provide more information about your petition</p>	<p>Local democracy depends on decisions being evidence-led, transparent, and participatory. A pause to allow for a rigorous impact review and genuine consultation is not obstructionist; it is responsible governance.</p> <p>This petition is submitted in the spirit of constructive engagement and in the interest of fair, inclusive, and accountable decision-making for East Lothian's communities.</p>

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APPENDIX 2

Officer's response to the petition

It is recommended that the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee note the comments raised within the petition and support the parking review to continue to advance and move forward to the formal Traffic regulation Order consultation process which will be presented back to Council for wider consideration in due course.

The committee is recommended to consider in practical terms the detail of the assessment process; the level of public engagement undertaken, the continued public engagement to be entered into through the formal Traffic Order consultation process, the requirement to address any objections raised, the further critiquing of the business case for each town, individual impact assessments and wider integrated impact assessments provided as Council policy, that addresses the petitioners concerns.

The introduction of parking charges must adhere to Council policy and that the making of a Traffic Regulation Order must be in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act and administered in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, which will allow formal objection to be made to the Council, subject to the Council progressing to publish the making of the Order.

On 30 October 2018, East Lothian Council adopted the Local Transport Strategy and associated Parking Management Strategy. The strategy provided the necessary context for the introduction of parking management intervention including parking charging within the county.

On the 28 June 2022 East Lothian Council agreed to 'acknowledge the requirements of Council (30 October 2018) to take forward an assessment of the demand for town centre parking on an individual town case by case basis taking into account local people's view', and not to consider the impacts of town centre parking holistically.

On 27 February 2024, Council agreed to note the intention to accelerate the parking management review, consult on the five remaining towns concurrently, and draft and publish Orders introducing parking restrictions in due course.

Between 1 May, and 28 July (12 weeks), the parking review public engagement ran four public facing events in Dunbar, Haddington, Tranent, and Musselburgh. Face-to-face events were held at Town House, Dunbar, Corn Exchange, Haddington, The Fraser Centre, Tranent, and Inveresk Church Hall, Musselburgh. Over the period, a public survey questionnaire sought public opinion on the initial proposals.

On 9 December, East Lothian Council agreed to move to the intent to make the Order and subsequently advertise the Orders which will allow opportunity for the public to raise further representations and objections to the proposals as amended, following which a report will be brought back to Council.

In consideration of the process before making the Orders (if agreed), officers will present undated reports, business case development and impact assessments as appropriate, which will be appropriate, and proportionate to the proposals being considered.

The following background papers may be of use:

- Report to Council on 9 December 2025 – 04a Parking Management Proposals: Dunbar
- 04a Parking management Proposals: Dunbar Amendment
- Report to Council on 9 December 2025 – 04b Parking Management Proposals: Haddington
- 04b Parking management Proposals: Dunbar Amendment
- Report to Council on 9 December 2025 – 04c Parking Management Proposals: Tranent
- 04c Parking management Proposals: Tranent Amendment
- Report to Council on 9 December 2025 – 04d Parking Management Proposals: Musselburgh
- 04d Parking management Proposals: Musselburgh Amendment
- 122/25 Parking Management Proposals: Dunbar – Appendices C-H Council Report of 9/12/25 – Cover Report
- 122/25a Appendix C: Dunbar Parking Management Strategy – Public Engagement Report
- 122/25b Appendix D: Dunbar Business case
- 122/25c Appendix E: Dunbar Parking Impact Assessment
- 122/25d Appendix F: Dunbar Parking Management Financial Model – Technical Note
- 122/25e Appendix G: Dunbar Analysis of Proposals, Representations and recommended mitigations
- 122/25f Appendix H: Dunbar Parking demand data analysis

- 123/25 Parking Management Proposals: Haddington – Appendices C-H Council Report of 9/12/25 – Cover Report
- 123/25a Appendix C: Haddington Parking Management Strategy – Public Engagement Report
- 123/25b Appendix D: Haddington Business case
- 123/25c Appendix E: Haddington Parking Impact Assessment
- 123/25d Appendix F: Haddington Parking Management Financial Model – Technical Note
- 123/25e Appendix G: Haddington Analysis of Proposals, Representations and recommended mitigations
- 123/25f Appendix H: Haddington Parking demand data analysis

- 124/25 Parking Management Proposals: Musselburgh – Appendices C-H Council Report of 9/12/25 – Cover Report
- 124/25a Appendix C: Musselburgh Parking Management Strategy – Public Engagement Report
- 124/25b Appendix D: Musselburgh Business case
- 124/25c Appendix E: Musselburgh Parking Impact Assessment
- 124/25d Appendix F: Musselburgh Parking Management Financial Model – Technical Note
- 124/25e Appendix G: Musselburgh Analysis of Proposals, Representations and recommended mitigations
- 124/25f Appendix H: Musselburgh Parking demand data analysis

- 125/25 Parking Management Proposals: Tranent – Appendices C-H Council Report of 9/12/25 – Cover Report
- 124/25a Appendix C: Tranent Parking Management Strategy – Public Engagement Report
- 125/25b Appendix D: Tranent Business case
- 125/25c Appendix E: Tranent Parking Impact Assessment
- 125/25d Appendix F: Tranent Parking Management Financial Model – Technical Note
- 125/25e Appendix G: Tranent Analysis of Proposals, Representations and recommended mitigations
- 125/25f Appendix H: Tranent Parking demand data analysis

- Report to Council on 10 December 2024 – Update on North Berwick Traffic Regulation Orders
- Report to Council on 27 February 2024 – Update on Parking Management Traffic Regulation Order for North Berwick
- Report to Council on 25 April 2023 – Town Centre Parking Management: Introduction of Parking Management Proposals in North Berwick
- Report to East Lothian Council on 28 June 2022 – Town Centre Parking Management: Consultation
- Members’ Library Report – Economic Impact Assessment Report (Ref: 34/23, April 2023 Bulletin)
- Members’ Library Report – Consultation Report (Ref: 35/23, April 2023 Bulletin)
- Integrated Impact Assessment
- Report to East Lothian Council on 30 October 2018 – East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy

- East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Parking Strategy, Members’ Library Ref: 142/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Active Travel Improvement Plan, Members’ Library Ref: 141/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- Policy and Performance Review Committee – 04 Roads Asset Management Annual Status and Options Report
- Report to East Lothian Council on 25 April 2023 – Town Centre Parking Management: Introduction of Parking Management Proposals in North Berwick
- Report to East Lothian Council on 27 February 2024 – Update on Parking Management Traffic Regulation Order North Berwick
- Members’ Library Report – East Lothian by Numbers: Travel and Transport (Ref: 152/24, November 2024 Bulletin)