

## **STATION CAR PARKING POLICY IN SCOTLAND – RESPONSE FROM SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST MSPs**

**The Scottish Conservative & Unionist Members of the Scottish Parliament welcome the opportunity to respond to Transport Scotland's consultation on station car parking charges.**

**We are strongly of the view that if the Government wishes to encourage more people to use public transport (a view which we share) then action must be taken to ensure that this option is made as convenient and viable as possible.**

**In the case of car parking at railway stations this must mean ensuring that there is sufficient space available to cater for maximum projected demand. One means of achieving this may be for Network Rail to look at converting some of their disused land/property at or near stations into car parks.**

**It is equally crucial that parking charges – if they must be levied at all - be sufficiently low so as not to act as a significant disincentive to taking the train.**

**Ultimately, it is our view that at stations across Scotland there should be a clear presumption in favour of maximising available car parking space and keeping costs to an absolute minimum. Anything less than this is unlikely to persuade significant numbers of travellers, and especially commuters, to switch from the private car to the train.**