



ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

This is a supplement to the original agenda and includes reports that are additional to the original agenda.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - CALL IN PANEL

Date: Tuesday 20 February 2018

Time: 3.00 pm

Place: Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Senior Governance Officer: Laura Wilson **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764301

AGENDA

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| 4 | CONSIDERATION OF CALL-IN REQUEST RELATING TO DELEGATED DECISION 3063 - TRINITY SQUARE MULTI STOREY CAR PARK BLUE BADGE DISCOUNT REMOVAL | 3 - 12 |
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Parking, Transport and Fleet Services, Nottingham City Council

Written submission from Annmarie Scott-Reddish, Parking and Commercial Project Officer, received on 16 February 2018:

Reason for requesting call-in:

1) Inadequate consultation relating to the decision

a) Lack of external consultation outside of Nottingham City Council; prior to publication

Prior to the Delegated Decision 3063 being created on the 2 November 2017, we engaged and consulted with the Equality and Community Relations team on the 24 October to advise them of the proposed changes to Trinity Square Car Park. This information was then circulated to the Disability Involvement Group (DIG) (External) and the Disabled Employee Support Network (DESN) (Internal) on the 25 October.

Members of the Disability Involvement Group	
Access4all2004	Acorn
IRIS Project	Adult.Sensory@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Mysightnotts.org.uk	Placesforpeople.co.uk
Disability Direct	Dyslexia.uk.net
Disabilitynottinghamshire.org.uk	Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)
Carersfederation.co.uk	Guidedogs.org.uk
Nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk	National Centre of Disabled Persons (NCDP)
Nslis@nottsdeaf.org.uk	Galleriesofjustice.org.uk
Amily-action.org.uk	NHS CCG
NHS Healthcare	Nottsdeaf.org.uk
Nottingham Disabled People's Movement	Epilepsy Society
MESH	

We received a number of responses from individuals/groups regarding the proposal, which we answered and provided clarity on any queries or concerns that were raised. The majority of these queries related to whether Blue Badge Holders could still park in Trinity Square Car Park. We specified in our responses that the only change for Blue Badge Holders using the car park would be that normal parking charges would apply.

2) Relevant information not considered

a) Impact on how disabled citizens will access city centre if this is withdrawn

14 dedicated Blue Badge spaces will continue to be provided in Trinity Square Car Park but normal-parking charges will apply. Other locations are available that enable Blue Badge holder's to park for free for up to 4hrs in Curzon Street, Sneinton Market Square, Motorpoint Arena Car Park and Nottingham Castle Car Parks. In addition,

Blue Badge holders can park in on-street parking bays for as long as they want for free and park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours.

Considerable investment has been made by Nottingham City Council to make public transport options more accessible to disabled and elderly users. Nottingham has one of the most comprehensive and accessible public transport systems in the country with award winning operators and with the use of a Mobility Card and the ability to park for free on street, no Blue Badge holder is forced to pay to come into the City.

b) Availability of street parking in proximity to Trinity Square given increased demand arising from withdrawal free parking from Trinity Square Car Park

On street parking, bays are available in the following locations, which are in close proximity to Trinity Square:

Location of On Street Parking Bays	Number of Spaces
Hampden Street	33
Gill Street	22
Peel Street	58
Bluecoat Close	7
Wollaton Street	38
King Edward Street	10
King Charles Street	4
Thurland Street (Blue Badge Holders Only)	20
Total	192

Blue Badge Holders can also park on single or double yellow lines for up to 3 hours and there are a further 1397 (approximately) On Street Parking Bays across the city centre.

c) Impact on wider traffic flows within city centre arising from increases in on street parking

Impact to the traffic flow will not change as blue badge holders already have the ability to park on street and on double/single yellow lines.

3) Viable alternatives not considered

a) No analysis provided on why Trinity Square was selected ahead of other NCC car parks where disabled users are entitled to park for free.

As part of the restructuring of operational duties within the parking services team, parking services will be de-manning the Trinity Square Car Park, this means that parking staff would no longer be able to verify blue badges in accordance with the blue badge scheme and sustain the concessionary provision. The provision of free blue badge parking was removed from the Lace Market MSCP four years ago, because of this car park being de-manned. Trinity Square has not been selected ahead of other NCC car parks.

Parking Services received very few complaints regarding this move, in part due to an extensive engagement and communications campaign but also because many Blue Badge holders no longer expect free parking as the number of parking operators providing the concession reduces.

Many of our neighbouring local authorities have reviewed their Blue Badge concessions. Derby City and Mansfield District Council have withdrawn free Blue Badge Parking at their facilities because of these reviews. Other major parking providers in Nottingham no longer give concessions. The only parking provider, which does, is intu, which uses the rents received from its store operators to subsidise their concession of four hours' free parking.

4) Justification for the decision open to challenge on the basis of evidence considered

a) No analysis provided on why Trinity Square was selected ahead of other NCC car parks where disabled users are entitled to park for free.

This has been answered in question 3a above.

b) No measures included on mitigating negative impact assessment

We plan to conduct a thorough media communications campaign. This will involve producing a leaflet, advising of the change and informing Blue Badge holders of locations they are able to park for free. This will also be circulated to the members of the DIG and DESN groups mentioned above; the tourist Information centre, Council buildings that are accessed by the public and this information will be included on the parking services website.

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Disability Direct Nottingham

Written submission received from Charlotte Throssel, Services Manager, Disability Direct Nottingham on 15 February 2018:

I am unable to provide a decisive response to the impact of removing the blue badge concessions at Trinity Square car park. However I can assure you that once it happens the majority of blue badge holders will not use the car park so the predicated gain of 25k a year is inaccurate. In addition to this I would like it highlighted that although on street car parking is to remain free, there is very little accessible parking in that area.

Whilst it is correctly reported that the public transport links into the city are numerous, it fails to recognise that the buses are difficult to negotiate for people with mobility issues, mental distress, sensory and auditory impairments. Accessibility on buses varies and often they are so full that wheelchair users are forced to wait for another.

I would strongly urge the council to carry out a more in depth impact assessment with disabled people and carers and consult wider than its own disability group, if or when it considers to do the same at other car parks.

I apologise that on this occasion I cannot offer any further information, this is partly due to the short time scale of the request but hope my response has been of some use.

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Traffic and Safety, Nottingham City Council

Written submission from Paul Boulton, Head of Traffic, Nottingham City Council, received on 16 February 2018:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide evidence to the Call-In panel on the traffic management implications of the proposed decision, as outlined in reason for requesting call-in c) relevant information not covered.

2. Impact on how disabled citizens will access the City Centre if this is withdrawn

2.1 Nottingham is a very accessible city and this decision will have no significant impact on disabled citizen's ability to access the City Centre. Indeed, opportunities to access the City Centre for disabled citizens are available in a number of ways, including:

2.2 Concessionary Travel Scheme

2.2.1 Senior and Mobility cards are available to permanent city residents of eligible age or qualifying disability. They offer free travel as part of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, which allows free travel on all local bus services between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday and at all times at weekends and bank holidays.

2.3 Special Educational Needs Mobility Card

2.3.1 The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Mobility card pilot is not part of the National Concessionary Scheme, it is a separate project funded by Nottingham City Council to support users access training opportunities through our Independent Travel Training scheme.

2.4 Easy Link

2.4.1 Easylink is an accessible bus service offered to support disabled and other citizens who find the main bus and tram network difficult to use. Easylink is a door to door service to the shops, leisure activities, medical appointments or other journey citizens want to make.

2.4.2 Disabled citizens can travel anywhere up to the Robin Hood Boundary. Easylink is available Monday to Friday – First pick up is at 08:00 and final pick up is 17:30.

2.4.3 Citizens with a Mobility Citycard issued by Nottingham City Council are automatically registered as a user and don't need to join, which entitles disabled citizens to a 50% fare reduction.

2.5 Disabled Blue Badge Parking Opportunities

- 2.5.1 Blue badge parking spaces for disabled citizens are available both in off-street car parks and in on-street disabled bays.
- 2.5.2 Within City Centre car parks, parking will remain free for the first 4 hours for blue badge holders in Curzon Street, Sneinton Market Square, Motorpoint Arena Car Park and Nottingham Castle Car Parks.
- 2.5.3 Blue badge holders will also still be able to park in Trinity Square, subject to normal parking charges, in the 14 dedicated disabled parking spaces conveniently located close to exit and entry points.
- 2.5.4 There are also over 30 free on-street blue badge parking bays within reasonable proximity to Trinity Square, not to mention the many more across the City Centre.
- 2.5.5 Finally, further free on-street parking opportunities are also available for disabled citizens in the 1400 Pay & Display bays located across the City Centre, about 200 of which are in the general vicinity of Trinity Square. Parking in these bays is free for blue badge holders.

3. Availability of on-street parking in proximity to Trinity Square given increased demand arising from withdrawal of free parking from Trinity Square

3.1 As outlined above, there are over 30 free on-street blue badge parking bays located within the general vicinity of Trinity Square, not to mention the many more across the City Centre.

3.2 The free disabled bays within the general vicinity of Trinity Square include:

- Burton Street (outside E-On) – 5 Spaces
- Burton Street (outside Guildhall) – 2 Spaces
- Burton Street (outside Royal Concert Hall) – 3 Spaces
- Wollaton Street (outside Best Western Hotel) – 2 Spaces
- Wollaton Street (east of Best Western Hotel) – 4 Spaces
- Queen Street (east side) – 4 Spaces
- King Street (west side) – 4 Spaces
- Peachey Street (south side) - 2 Spaces
- Glasshouse Street (west side) - 5 Spaces

3.3 In addition, further free on-street parking opportunities are also available for disabled citizens in the 1400 Pay & Display bays located across the City Centre, approximately 200 of which are located in the general vicinity of Trinity Square.

3.4 Pay & Display bays located in the general vicinity of Trinity Square, which are free to use by blue badge holders, include in North Sherwood Street, Bluecoat Close, Shakespeare Villas, Shakespeare Street, Wollaton Street, Perth Street, Rick Street, Kent Street and King Edward Street. Others are also close by.

4. Impact on wider traffic flows within City Centre arising from increases in on-street parking

4.1 Given the numerous alternative opportunities for disabled citizens in Nottingham to travel and park free of charge, as outlined above, it is not envisaged that this decision will lead to any noticeable impact on wider traffic flows within the City Centre.

4.2 Blue badge holders are permitted to park free for up to 3 hours on double yellow lines (excluding no loading times). Whilst this may give rise to concerns that this decision could lead to an increase in blue badge holders parking on double yellow lines, in reality it is extremely unlikely that should this occur, there will be any noticeable impact on wider traffic flows. This is based on three main reasons namely:

4.2.1 The existing practice of blue badge holders parking on double yellow lines currently has little or no impact on wider traffic flows. Blue badge holders themselves are generally very responsible when and where they park and as such do not generally create any major issues.

4.2.2 The alternative free parking opportunities outlined above will reduce the need for blue badge holders to park on double yellow lines.

4.2.3 The most critical time for traffic flows is during the morning and evening peak periods. All Nottingham's key traffic routes, including those within the City Centre, have peak period loading prohibitions in force which prevent blue badge holders from parking during these traffic sensitive periods. Red routes and tram corridors also prohibit parking by disabled drivers, except in marked bays.

4.3 For the above reasons therefore, no significant impact on traffic flows is envisaged.

5. Summary

5.1 In summary, due to the many alternative opportunities available as outlined above, no blue badge holder need pay to travel into the City.

5.2 This decision is not considered to have any detrimental impact on wider traffic flows within the City Centre.

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