

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a) Impact on how disabled citizens will access city centre if this is withdrawn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