

**DIRECTORATE OF CITY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

10th Dec. 2014

Officer in Consultation

Castle Car Park Blue Badge Holder Parking

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to take forward some minor changes to Castle car park layout to provide additional facilities for those with mobility difficulties.

Recommendations

2. Convert a section of parking bays in Castle car park to wider Blue badge holder bays.

Reason: to increase disabled parking facilities close to the city centre

Background

3. As part of the recent modifications to the city centre footstreets additional dedicated blue badge holder bays were provided in 4 of the car parks closest to the central area. Ad-hoc observations made indicate that these additional bays are being very well used, particularly in Castle car park, hence it is suggested that a further conversion of regular bays to wider disabled bays be made (see plan in Annex A). The estimated cost of these works is likely to be in the region of £1500, which can be funded from the new lines budget.

Consultation

4. The changes to the Castle car park parking bay designations would not require any formal consultation.
5. Ward Councillor and political party representative comments on the proposals are in Annex B.

Options

6. The options available for each of the proposed amendments put forward above are:
7. Option 1 - Take no further action.
8. Option 2 – Proceed with the proposals as outlined above.
9. Option 3 - Put on hold for the time being or defer a decision for additional information to be provided.

Analysis

10. Option 1 – Castle car park has narrow parking bays due to old parking standards used many years ago and therefore can be more difficult for a driver or passenger with reduced mobility. Marking out the whole car park to modern standards would reduce the number of spaces in the car park but would still not provide a particularly attractive option for a blue badge holder. Hence taking no action is not the recommended option.
11. Option 2 - converting regular parking bays to wider blue badge holder bays results in a loss of spaces overall (3 bays become 2). Whilst this may result in a loss of income for the individual car park once the car park reaches capacity the displaced vehicles will likely relocate to either St. George's Field or Piccadilly car parks. Piccadilly car park charges are the same as Castle but St Georges Field car park charges are lower than Castle by 30p per hour. The maximum loss of income once the car park is at capacity would therefore be (if the proposal put forward is agreed) 10 fewer spaces at 30p per hour = £3/hour during peak occupancy periods. However this cost should be weighed against the much improved facilities for those with mobility difficulties. An additional potential improvement might be that the many blue badge holders who currently park up for 3 hours in Castlegate (a footstreet) might take advantage of the improvements in Castle car park leading to fewer vehicles in Castlegate. For these reasons this is the recommended option.
12. Option 3 – there may be a larger unmet demand for additional blue badge parking that could be identified by further study. However if that becomes apparent we would be able to convert more spaces at that time so the delay to making improvements whilst a study (the

results of which would unlikely be conclusive) is undertaken does not seem offer any real advantage. For this reason this option is not recommended.

Council Plan

13. The provision of additional exclusive blue badge holder parking provision supports the council priorities of “Protecting vulnerable people” and “Get York Moving”.

Implications

14. **Financial** There are no financial implications beyond those outlined earlier in the report.

Human Resources (HR) There are no HR implications

Equalities There are no equalities implications

Legal There are no Legal implications

Crime and Disorder There are no crime and disorder implications

Information Technology (IT) There are no IT implications

Property There are no property implications

Other There are no other implications

Risk Management

15. There are no risk management implications.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date 7/10/2014

Wards Affected: Guildhall

All *tick*

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

None

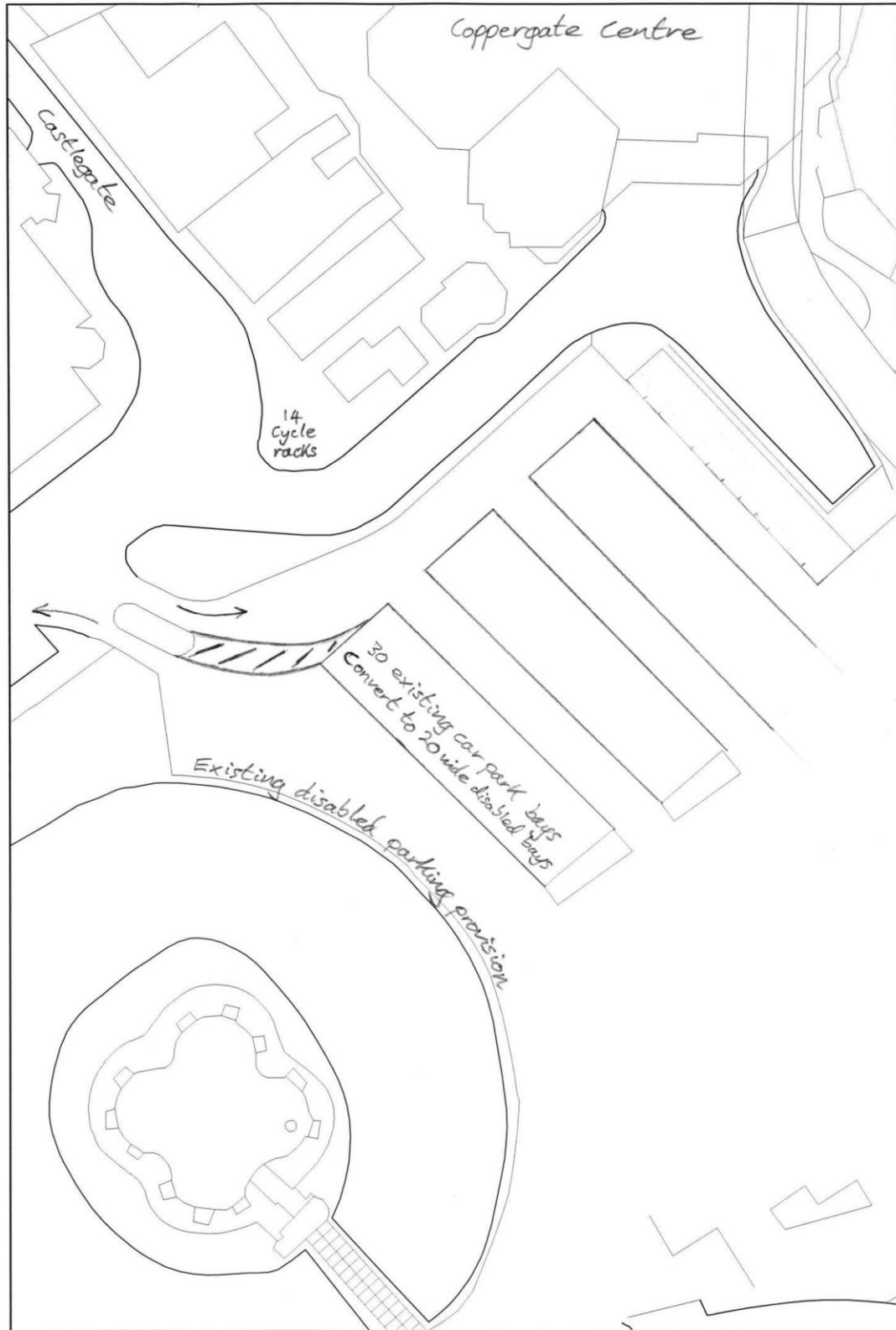
Annexes

Annex A – Plan of Castle Car Park Showing Proposed Changes.

Annex B - Ward Councillor and Political Party Representative
Comments

Annex A

Plan of Castle Car Park Showing Proposed Changes



Annex B

Ward Councillor and Political Party Representative Comments

Ward

Councillor Looker - I have no problem with the Castle Car park issue.

Councillor Watson - Whilst I agree that there is a need for more blue badge spaces, this is a very busy car park and I would favour a 50% reduction on the number of dedicated spaces suggested.

Political Party Representative

Councillor Reid - Whilst I support the provision of facilities for blue badge holders we do need to ensure that the balance is right and are not penalising able bodied people who wish to park.

If these proposals go ahead will they be monitored and provision adjusted in the future if necessary? There is nothing more frustrating that having permanently empty disabled spaces when all the others are full.

Councillor Steward – No comments received.

Councillor D'Agorne – No comments received.