

City of York Council
Equalities Impact Assessment

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:		Place	
Service Area:		Transport	
Name of the proposal :		Introduction of Blue Badge car parking bays on Lendal, Blake Street and Davygate	
Lead officer:		Helene Vergereau, Head of Highway Access and Development	
Date assessment completed:		4 April 2024	
Names of those who contributed to the assessment :			
Name	Job title	Organisation	Area of expertise
Darren Hobson	Traffic Management Team Leader	CYC	Transport
David Smith	Access officer	CYC	Accessibility

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	<p>What is the purpose of the proposal?</p> <p>Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.</p>
	<p>The proposal aims to make the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) permanent to provide loading and Blue Badge bays in Lendal and Blake Street and Davygate.</p> <p>The bays have been in operation under an ETRO and used for loading between 6am and 10.30am and will be reserved for Blue Badge holders outside of these hours.</p> <p>For the bays in Blake Street and Lendal, Blue Badge parking will therefore be available between 10.30am and 6am the next day, with Blue Badge access during footstreet hours (10.30 am to 5pm) permitted through the hostile vehicle mitigation bollards on Blake Street on presentation of a Blue Badge. Vehicles carrying Blue Badge holders are permitted to exit through the bollards on Lendal.</p> <p>For the bays on Davygate, as vehicular access is only permitted outside of the footstreet hours, Blue Badge parking will be available from 5pm until 6am the next day.</p> <p>The bays were implemented without a limit on the duration of stay. This is to provide a longer duration of parking for Blue Badge holders to improve access to the city centre.</p> <p>The original Order were originally implemented as an Experimental Order as the process allowed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bays to be put in place quickly; • The consultation to take place whilst the bays are in place, providing feedback from users based on lived experience of the bays to better inform any future decisions on the matter; • The bays or time restrictions to be changed quickly if they need to be amended based on user experience and the feedback received. <p>Following the consultation period within the ETRO it is now proposed to make the Order permanent.</p>

1.2	Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)
	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 Inclusive Mobility, A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure, Department for Transport BS8300 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 1: External environment — Code of practice Equality Act 2010
1.3	Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?
	Blue Badge holders and the people they travel by car with (carers, family, friends, taxis, etc). Local businesses, their customers, and the suppliers and contractors delivering to those businesses. Highway users, including people walking and cycling and users of cycle parking on the streets
1.4	What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom? This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.
	The provision of Blue Badge bays in Blake Street, Lendal and Davygate aims to improve access to the city centre for Blue Badge holders by providing an alternative to parking on double yellow lines which is restricted to a maximum duration of 3 hours and does not provide parking bays.

Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback

2.1	What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights? Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.
Source of data/supporting evidence	Reason for using
Feedback from the York City centre accessibility workshops facilitated by MIMA	Workshops have been focusing on access to the city centre and how this can be improved and provided feedback based on users' lived experience
Feedback from the York Access Forum	The Access Forum meets regularly to provide feedback on access issues in York
Inclusive Mobility, House of Commons Blue Badges and parking for disabled people, and other relevant publications	Additional information on the impact of providing Blue Badge bays, design recommendations, etc
Representations received from the consultation period within the ETRO	The representations provided information on the lived experiences of users of the bays, which help provide information on how the bays can be managed better i.e. increase in enforcement.

Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge

3.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.	
Gaps in data or knowledge		Action to deal with this
Will the bays deliver an improved experience to access the City Centre for Blue badge holders?		The ETRO allowed for monitoring and feedback to be provided through the consultation period and site surveys. Monitoring and feedback will continue through the York City centre accessibility workshops and the York Access Forum
Will the loading capacity be sufficient for local businesses?		The ETRO allowed for monitoring and feedback to be provided through the consultation period and site surveys. Monitoring and feedback will continue through communication with local businesses and partners.

Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

4.1	Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.
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Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts of the recommended option	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	See below, the benefits are anticipated to be realised for Blue Badge holders and their family, friends, and carers. Older people are more likely to hold a Blue Badge so the benefits described under the “Disability” section will be relevant to older people who have a Blue Badge.	+	M
Disability	<p>The proposed Blue Badge bays will provide a new car parking option, using bays for unlimited durations, to supplement the existing option to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours in locations which are close to City Centre shops and services.</p> <p>The bays will enable parking without any time limit, apart from the need to vacate the bays to enable loading to take place between 6am and 10.30am every day.</p> <p>This was reviewed during the experimental order from monitoring and feedback.</p> <p>The provision of the bays is anticipated to have a positive impact on accessibility to the City Centre, including during footstreet hours where vehicular access is restricted,</p>	+	M

Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts of the recommended option	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
	<p>including for Blue Badge holders who are permitted access on two loops only.</p> <p>The impact will be relatively limited as only 5 bays are proposed in total and only 3 bays will be available during footstreet hours.</p> <p>As noted in the report, some accessibility issues will remain for the proposed bays as they are close to cobbled areas and although dropped kerbs and/or raised tables are generally available close by to enable users to rejoin the footways, these are not directly adjacent to the proposed bays.</p>		
Gender	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Gender Reassignment	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Marriage and civil partnership	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>No potential disproportionate impacts identified.</p> <p>Some people may experience mobility issues during or after pregnancy. If this results in them becoming a Blue Badge holder, the impacts described in the “Disability” section above will be relevant.</p>	+	M
Race	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Religion and belief	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Sexual	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		

Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts of the recommended option	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
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Other Socio-economic groups including :	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
Carer	For carers who take care of a Blue Badge holders, the impacts identified in the “Disability” section will be relevant.	+	M
Low income groups	No potential disproportionate impacts identified.		
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	No potential disproportionate impacts identified. Some members of the veterans and armed forces community may experience mobility issues. If they are a Blue Badge holder, the impacts described in the “Disability” section above will be relevant.	+	M
Other	Not applicable		
Impact on human rights:			
List any human rights impacted.	<p>The proposal should have a positive impact with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 8 “Respect for your private and family life, home and correspondence”. This includes a right to participate in essential economic, social, cultural and leisure activities. In some circumstances, public authorities may need to help people enjoy their right to a private life, including their ability to participate in society. 	+	M

Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts of the recommended option	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 14 “Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms”. This requires that all of the rights and freedoms set out in the Human Rights Act must be protected and applied without discrimination. 		

Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p>High impact (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p>Medium impact (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p>Low impact (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts

5.1	Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?
<p>The ETRO allowed for the use of the bays to monitored and gather feedback on the lived experience of the users. The representations received indicated that misuse of the bays, which was reported to the Council Civil Enforcement Officer and an increase in patrols was introduced to mitigate the misuse of the bays. The proposal is expected to continue to have positive impacts, improving access to the city centre for Blue Badge holders. As the recommended option proposes to make the bays permanent, it will be a continuation of the current situation that is occurring.</p>	

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:
<p>- No major change to the proposal – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</p>	

- **Adjust the proposal** – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
- **Continue with the proposal** (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty
- **Stop and remove the proposal** – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.

Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.

Option selected	Conclusions/justification
No major change to the proposal	The proposal is expected to continue the positive impacts, improving access to the city centre for Blue Badge holders. As the recommended option proposes to make the current Experimental restriction permanent, it will continue the current situation that is occurring.

Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1	What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.		
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale
Impact on Blue Badge holders (including those using the bays and those parking on double yellow lines)	Continued review of the parking activity in the area and gather feedback from users	Helene Vergereau	Ongoing

Impact on businesses and loading activity	Continued review of loading activity in the area and gather feedback from users	Helene Vergereau	Ongoing
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Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8. 1	How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward? Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?
	Feedback from the York access forum, York Bid, businesses in the area and other interested parties, will help to provide feedback on the use of the bays for loading activities and Blue Badge parking, to ensure the bays are utilised as proposed at the relevant times of operation.