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REFERENCE: HSB-41-14

REPORT ON TRAFFIC ORDERS FOR COUNTY HALL CAR PARKS

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an amendment to The County of Wiltshire (Western Wiltshire) (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2011 to include the County Hall car parks (to include East Wing and Greyhound) in this Order.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) meets two of the priorities of the Council's Business Plan. These priorities being:

Outcome 1 – Wiltshire has a thriving and growing local economy

Outcome 4 – Wiltshire has inclusive communities where everyone can achieve their potential

Background

3. Following the refurbishment of County Hall, the centralisation of services, the increased staffing numbers accommodated and the relocation of Trowbridge Library to County Hall, the number of staff and customers accessing services on the site has grown. This proposal seeks to ensure adequate parking provision for staff and customers by defining areas of parking use and the removal of non council parking during working hours.
4. The parking orders will give Wiltshire Council the ability to determine who parks in the County Hall car parks. It is proposed that the Council will use an electronic permit system to effectively manage the car parks. All staff will have access to an electronic parking permit; with priority permits available for some roles. Visitors will be able to register their vehicles at a self-service terminal in reception; this will give them the ability to park for two hours without charge.

Summary of Proposals

5. The advertised proposals will restrict parking in all the County Hall car parks to permit holders only between the hours of 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays. Provision is made for staff only areas, visitor only areas, minibus parking, loading and unloading and Blue Badge holders.
6. Under these proposals non permit holders will not be able to park in the County Hall car parks during the hours of operation and will have to make alternative arrangements. Outside of the operational hours the car parks will be unrestricted and available for the wider community to use.

7. The draft Traffic Order was subject to formal advertisement between 22 August 2014 and 12 September 2014. During the advertisement period a total of 19 items of comment were received. The majority of the comments received relate to the operation of the proposed permit system and these will be considered as part of the management plan on parking.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. To consider the comments received during the consultation period. Details of those who commented are provided in **Appendix 1**. A summary of the issues raised relating to the Traffic Order and officer comments are included in **Appendix 2**.

Safeguarding Considerations

9. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

10. The inclusion of the County Hall car parks in the off-street Order allows enforcement of the marked disabled bays to be undertaken. This ensures that these bays will only be available for use by blue badge holders. In addition, blue badge holders will have unrestricted access to all the marked bays in the car parks at County Hall.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

11. The Council will continue to advocate and support alternative sustainable travel options.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. There are considered to be no equalities impacts.

Risk Assessment

13. If the Traffic Order is not approved then there will continue to be a risk to the ability of staff and visitors to park.

Financial Implications

14. All expenditure for the necessary works will be funded from existing Highways budgets.

Legal Implications

15. The inclusion of the County Hall car parks into the off-street parking order requires the processing of a TRO. The process of introducing a TRO is governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and associated procedural regulations. Failure to adhere to the statutory processes could result in the TRO being successfully challenged in the High Court.

Options Considered

16. To:
 - (i) Make the Order as advertised.
 - (ii) Not make the Order as advertised.

Reason for Proposals

17. The remodelling of County Hall has resulted in the development of a new relationship between the Council and the community that it serves; County Hall is now a highly accessible community space. This success has resulted in an increase in the volume of visitors and staff visiting and working in County Hall and therefore, to safeguard this relationship, it is considered that the parking provision should be formally controlled.

Proposals

18. That:
- (i) The County Hall car parks be included in the Western Wiltshire (Off-street Parking Places) Order 2011 and that (Amendment No.1 Order) 2014 be made.
 - (ii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

- Letters of support
- Letters of objection