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HDC Due Regard (Equality Analysis) Template

Due Regard (Equality Analysis) is an on-going proactive process which requires us to consider the effect our decisions are likely to have on local communities, service users and employees, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk of disadvantage.

This template has been designed to assist in the collation of information and evidence required to support the 'Due Regard' process when introducing new policies/procedures/functions and services or reviewing existing ones.

For help with this template please view the guidance document, which contains advice to assist you when you are considering the impact (both positive and negative) of the proposed actions on each of the protected equality characteristics.

Name of policy/procedure/function/service being analysed: Car Parking Strategy

Department and section: Regulatory Services

Name of lead officer: Elaine Bird

Other people involved (assisting or reviewing - including any service users or stakeholder groups etc.):

Date assessment completed: 19/08/16

Step 1: Defining the policy/procedure/function/service

Is this a new, amended or reviewed policy? What are the aims, objectives and purpose and how will they be achieved? What are the main activities and which communities are likely to be affected by these activities? What are the expected outcomes?

The provision of a suitable and sufficient parking service should meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors and help support a viable community.

The existing car parking strategy was published in 2008 needs reviewing to reflect the current demands on the service.

The Parking Order has been periodically reviewed, there has been no fundamental review of the strategy since it was first published.

The aim of the report is to:

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- Review payment methods
- Review tariff structure - including business and residents permits
- Review mix of car parks - long and short stay in the right location
- Making best use of parking assets - maximising number of spaces including disabled bays
- Provision of coach parking
- Provision of electrical charging points

Step 2: Data collection & evidence

What relevant evidence, research, data and other information do you have and is there any further research, data or evidence you need to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known affects of the policy on different communities? Include quantitative data as well as qualitative intelligence such as community input and advice.

Benchmarking information from neighbouring authorities and comparator market towns covering tariff structure, mix, number of spaces, including a % of disabled bays.

Transaction data from current pay and display machines

Service user questionnaire prior to the development of the draft strategy

A condition survey of the current car parking facilities including an assessment of the current number of disabled bays

Parking restrictions in the current Parking Order - The Parking Orders allows for 3 hour free parking when a valid Blue Badge is correctly displayed.

The Executive working group, comprising of elected members and officers used all the evidence available to develop the potential actions to recommendations that came out of the strategy review.

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Full consultation on the draft strategy will be undertaken prior to the development of the new parking order and this will be an opportunity to gather further equality evidence.

Step 3: Consultation and involvement

Have you consulted and if so outline what you did and who you consulted with and why.

Prior to the development of the draft strategy, residents, businesses and visitors were encouraged to complete a questionnaire to ascertain the current options with regards to the service provided and to identify any areas of concern for development within the draft document.

A business focus group was set up to review the recommendations that came out of the review of the strategy prior to going before Scrutiny Panel.

Full consultation of the new policy will be undertaken prior to any amendments to the Parking Order.

Step 4: Potential impact

Considering the evidence from the data collection and feedback from consultation, which communities will be affected and what barriers may these individuals or groups face in relation to Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities and also the potential impact on Community Cohesion. Remember people have multiple characteristics so the impact of a policy on a particular community may impact people within the community differently. Where possible include numbers likely to be affected.

Lack of suitable parking spaces could impact on people gaining access to facilities and services

Security in car parks - the users survey identified safety and security as the third most important feature of the car

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park. Whilst less than 6% of the responders said they had experienced an issue of security in the car parks it is appreciated that certain group of the population may feel more vulnerable when using the car parks.

Lack of sufficient disabled spaces or parent/toddler bays

The revised parking tariff structure will have an impact on all service users

Insufficient or in appropriate signage to enable users to understand the parking restrictions

The ability to pay for parking by different methods e.g. cash less or pay by phone

Introduction of charging at Symington Recreation ground could have an impact on the users of the recreation ground however the car park is in a convenient location to the town centre and train station and surveys indicate that this car park is being used for all day free parking for commuters and workers in the town rather than users of the recreation ground.

Step 5: Mitigating and assessing the impact

If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people. Consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary and how any unmet needs have identified can be addressed.

Lack of suitable spaces - the review has identified the importance of the right mix of car parks at the right location. The consultants undertook an analysis of the current and future demands on the service based on predicted growth in the area. In the short term there do not appear to be any significant issues however there may be an impact in the mid to longer term. This has been

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identified in the car park maintenance programme and consideration will be given to maximise the number of spaces generally, Inc. disabled bays during refurbishment work.

Security in car parks - The introduction of cashless payment methods should improve the security in the car parks. The Park Mark Safer Parking Award has been given to 6 car parks and the Council will continue to participate in this scheme.

The revised parking tariff - consideration was given to ensure the right tariff structure is set to meet the needs of all service users. There is no intention to change the current charging structure for blue badge holders. Consideration was given to introduce Sunday charging in all pay and display car parks, however due to the potential impact this would have on the local community and service users generally it was felt in appropriate at the current time. The potential removal of the 1 hour free parking in Lutterworth will have the greatest impact, however the demands on parking generally in Lutterworth are higher than Market Harborough. Currently there is no requirement to obtain a ticket for the first free hour in Lutterworth which makes enforcement more problematic and may encourage users to overstay which does not result in the right turn over of spaces within the town. To off set this impact it is proposed to install a number of free 30 minute "pop and shop" bays within the town. There are already a number of "pop and shop" bays in Market Harborough and these are shown to be an effective way of providing short term free parking within the town centre without having a significant impact on the number of spaces generally available in the car parks. The recommendation for Lutterworth is also to standardise the tariff for all the car parks within the town to avoid any confusion and the pricing structure for longer stays has been changed to reflect this. The proposed amendments to the residents of Nithesdale Avenue permit scheme will have an impact on households with more than one car however the demand for permits exceeds the number of spaces available. The car park maintenance programme has identified potential additional spaces which could be created when the car park is due for refurbishment.

In sufficient or inappropriate signage - all signage is required to comply with the DFT guidance.

The ability to pay for parking by different methods - consideration was given to replace all pay and display machines with cashless alternatives however it was recognised that this could have a negative impact on some service users. The introduction of alternative payment methods such as pay by phone should benefit those with disabilities or impairments. The commissioning of new pay and display machines and alternative methods of payment will need to take into account a wide range of disabilities and impairments. This should include instructions for use and location in relation to disabled bays and accessibility of machines.

Introduction of charging at Symington Recreation ground could have an impact on the users of the recreation ground however the proposal is to introduce a number of wait limit bays in the area which can be used by people using the recreation free of charge.

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Step 6: Making a decision

Summarise your findings and give an overview of whether the policy will meet Harborough District Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity and human rights. Does it contribute to the achievement of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?

It is recognised that the car parking policy review will have an impact on a number of different sectors within the community however the introduction of improvement measures such as alternative payment methods and increased disabled bays through the council's maintenance programme will reduce the impact.

Full consultation of the proposed changes will be carried out prior to the amendment of the Parking Order and consideration will be given to the outcome of the consultation with regards to any issues identified which have an impact on any protected group.

Step 7: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy/procedure/service change

What monitoring systems will you put in place to promote equality of opportunity, monitor impact and effectiveness and make positive improvements? How frequently will monitoring take place and who will be responsible?

Continue to monitor the car park usage to identify trends. Annual

Benchmarking against comparator towns - annual

Monitor feedback from service users - on going

Monitor the success of the Park Mark Safer Car Park awards and address any recommendations identified where possible. - Annual

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Continue to work with local businesses to ensure adequate parking provision and enforcement.

Equality Improvement Plan

Equality Objective :

Action: Ensure maximum spaces are created including the number of disabled bays are considered when redevelopment of car parks in undertaken

Officer Responsible: Parking Services Manager

By when: on going

Equality Objective :

Action: Replacement of pay and display machines

Officer Responsible: Parking Services Manager

By when: April 17

Equality Objective :

Action: Provision of alternative payment methods

Officer Responsible: Parking Services Manager

By when: April 17

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Equality Objective :

Action: Review signage in car parks

Officer Responsible: Parking Services Manager

By when: on going

Signed off by:

Date:

Once signed off, please forward a copy for publication to Julie Clarke, Equality and Diversity Officer
e-mail: j.clarke@harborough.gov.uk , telephone: 01858 821070.