

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 23rd November 2017

Subject: Designated Parking Bays

Report by: Director of Regeneration

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider creating designated bays for electric vehicle charging points, and options for personalisation of disabled bays.

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation:

(1) approves the continued installation of disabled parking bays in residential area for use by all blue badge holders but that the Council's policy of refusing to designate use by any one particular blue badge holder or class of blue badge holder be reaffirmed

(2) approves the introduction of traffic regulation orders to create enforceable designated bays for charging electric vehicles

(3) delegates authority to the Director of Regeneration to develop and implement a viable solution for the implementation of EV charging

3. Background

- 3.1 In order to provide priority for groups with particular needs, designated parking bays are provided. In Portsmouth, this currently includes designated bays for Blue Badge Holders and Doctors' Bays in certain locations.
- 3.2 These bays are not provided for a specific individuals, but are open to all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for that particular category of designated bay.
- 3.3 In the case of disabled bays, any blue badge holder is entitled to use designated disabled bays, despite the fact that they are often implemented in response to an application by a particular resident to have a bay installed by their home address.

Request for Personalisation of Disabled Bay

- 3.4 A resident of Portsea has requested that the disabled bay installed outside where they live is converted to an individual disabled bay, solely for their own use and not by any other blue badge holder. This would require an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order and new signage as the sign would have a unique permit identifier in addition to the traditional Blue Badge wheelchair symbol to show that only a particular Blue Badge permit holder could park there.
- 3.5 The disabled bay installed outside their property is one of three in the same location and they have explained that other blue badge holders park in the bay that they consider to be 'theirs' and this causes them a problem if they want to go out, as they are concerned they would not be able to park back in the bay when they return.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

- 3.6 Portsmouth City Council submitted a successful bid to Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) for funding towards electric vehicle chargepoints in residential areas which do not benefit from off-street parking.
- 3.7 A similar approach to disabled bays is proposed for owners of Electric Vehicles whereby they would be entitled to apply to the city council for the installation of an electric charging point, which would be accompanied by a marked bay.
- 3.8 If bays were not marked for electric vehicle chargepoints, with an associated Traffic Regulation Order, then it would not be possible to prevent any vehicle parking adjacent to the chargepoint. This would then restrict use of the chargepoint by the intended electric vehicles.
- 3.9 Marking bays for electric vehicle chargepoints will reduce the level of parking available for other vehicles. It will however promote electric vehicles in the city and encourage the uptake of these low emission vehicles in Portsmouth.

4 Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 Having the thematic restriction enables improved access to parking in recognition of the particular needs of certain groups, but without giving personalised access to parts of the public highway.
- 4.2 The needs of all blue badge holders must be taken into account when considering this request. Portsmouth is a densely populated City and parking is at a premium for both residents and visitors. By installing a disabled bay solely for the use of one individual blue badge holder would have a negative impact on all other blue badge holders.

- 4.3 If an individual bay was agreed for this particular resident, then it is likely a significant number of other residents who have disabled bays would put in similar requests and this would again have a detrimental effect on other blue badge holders, especially where residents live close to popular locations such as Gunwharf, Southsea and Old Portsmouth. There are approximately 1,800 disabled bays installed outside residential properties within the city.
- 4.4 Creating marked EV charging points fits with PCC's overall desire to improve air quality as outlined in the Portsmouth Air Quality Strategy.
- 4.5 The characteristics of Portsmouth's housing is such that without an intervention from the Highways Authority, it would simply not be possible for a large portion of the population of Portsmouth to own Electric Vehicles.

5.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not deemed necessary as the recommendations do not have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the specific protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

All electric vehicle chargepoints will be accessible.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 It is the duty of a local authority to manage their road network with a view to achieving, so far as may be reasonably practicable having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives, the following objectives:
 - (a) securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network; and
 - (b) facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority."
- 6.2 Local authorities have a duty to take account of the needs of all road users, take action to minimise, prevent or deal with congestion problems, and consider the implications of decisions for both their network and those of others.
- 6.3 A local authority can by order under section 45 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 designate parking places on the highway for vehicles, or vehicles of any specified class, in the order, and may charge for such parking as prescribed under s.46. Such orders may designate a parking place for use only by such person or vehicles or such person or vehicles of a class specified in the order or for a specific period of time by all persons or persons or vehicles of a particular class.
- 6.4 A proposed Traffic Regulation Order must be advertised and the statutory consultees notified and given a 3-week period (21 days) in which to register any support or objections. Members of the public also have a right to object during that period. If objections are received to the proposed order the matter must go before the appropriate executive member for a decision whether or not to make the order, taking

into account any comments received from the public and/or the statutory consultees during the consultation period.

7.0 Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The recommendations contained within this report do not have any adverse impact on the Traffic and Transport budget and will be managed from existing cash limits.
- 7.2 The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) has awarded PCC a grant of £100,000 to fund up to 75% of the cost of installing electric vehicle chargepoints in residential areas which do not otherwise benefit from off-street parking. The remaining 25% of required funding will be met from the Traffic and Transport parking reserve.

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Signed by:
Tristan Samuels
Director of Regeneration

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
ORCS bid	Transport Planning team
2006 report to Executive	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:
Councillor Simon Boshier
Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation