



**Report to St Matthews/Birchills/Leamore  
Local Neighbourhood Partnership**

24/10/2005

**Disabled parking bays - Walsall Civic Quarter**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Neighbourhood Partnership on progress with the development of the Civic square in relation to disabled parking provision.

**Report detail**

Further to the Civic Quarter report approved by Cabinet on 19 January 2005, the following progress has been made on the recommendations:

All approved traffic orders have been advertised and sealed. These include the relocation of the taxi rank to Bridge Street, removal of all parking in Darwall Street, restricting hours of access to Darwall Street (to be implemented following completion of the scheme) and the Section 249 for the closure of Leicester Street to all traffic. Additional disabled parking bays on the Civic Centre car park off Hatherton Street are currently being organised and will be implemented at the earliest opportunity. The management of these spaces has been agreed with the One Stop Shop.

Further to the resolutions of Cabinet additional disabled parking spaces have been advertised in Station Street (8 no.) and Stafford Street (5 no). The consultation period for advertising the traffic orders has now closed and the Council is considering the objections received before making a decision with regard to their implementation.

The wider issue of disabled parking provision is currently being considered as part of a comprehensive parking strategy development. The strategy specifically includes a detailed review of the current provision and likely future requirements. A detailed consultation exercise will be undertaken to ensure the active involvement of the disabled community. The strategy will result in short, medium and long term objectives that will form the basis of action plans to address the current concerns. The draft report is timetabled for completion in early 2006, prior to being recommended for adoption by Council mid 2006.

## **Resource and Legal Considerations**

The local authority has a statutory duty to manage parking provision as part of its Network Management Duty imposed by the Traffic Management Act 2004.

## **Citizen Impact**

The improved management of car parking provision will have a considerable impact upon the prosperity and satisfaction of all citizens of the Borough.

## **Environment Impact**

The Civic square development will have a positive impact upon the environment of the Borough both in terms of appearance and how it is perceived by the community.

## **Performance Management and Risk Management Issues**

The development and implementation of a comprehensive parking strategy will assist with the delivery of the network management duty required by the traffic management act 2004. Failure to deliver the requirements of the Network Management Duty can lead to intervention by the Secretary of State.

## **Equality Implications**

The development and implementation of a comprehensive parking strategy will ensure we address the parking issues concerning all sections of the community.

## **Consultation**

A detailed consultation exercise will be undertaken during the last quarter of 2005 ensuring the active involvement of the disabled community.

## **Links to Vision 2008**

A comprehensive review of disabled parking facilities will be in accordance with the Council's vision priority of listening to what local people want.

### **Contact Officer**

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