

**Ref:** Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance11/01/2024

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**Councillor Dan De'Ath**

Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning



Dear Councillors and De'Ath

### **Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2024**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee a sincere thank you for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the proposed **Cardiff Parking Plan**. Please also relay our thanks to the officers who attended the Committee meeting to support this item. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

#### **General**

Members asked how the Parking Plan would stimulate the local economy. Officers clarified that restricted time parking, e.g. two hours only, in non-resident parking bays would enable a turn - over of cars allowing people to stop at local shops throughout the day, instead of the bay being 'blocked' by someone using it all day.

The committee also noted that improvements in the reliability, affordability and frequency of public transport are needed to encourage people out of their cars. Officers commented that a lot of funding is being committed to train services and that patronage on buses was slowly improving following the marked decline during Covid.

The potential to negatively impact on those working unsocial hours, unable to use public transport was also commented on by members. Officers suggested that car parks were available, and that parking was permitted in non-residential bays outside of the enforcement hours.

The committee asked if there was any update in relation to 'car clubs' that would provide an alternative solution. You stated that there was working

ongoing regional and that you would be able to provide further information in a matter of weeks.

Members asked if there was an opportunity to introduce 'double red lines' to prevent parking that restricts the flow of traffic, it was noted that this will be reviewed as a part of the priority bus routes, rather than the parking strategy.

### **Enforcement**

The enforcement of current and proposed parking was noted by Members including the need for more Civil Parking Enforcement officers when more zones are rolled out. Officers confirmed that a business case will be needed for each proposed zone that will include enforcement costs along with road markings and signage etc.

### **Permits**

The Committee noted that there had been issues raised in relation to the electronic parking system and its ease of use and despite this it has been rolled out. Issues in relation to differing enforcement times for non-resident and resident bays causing confusion was also a concern raised by members, however officers noted that the four zones that had been introduced would be reviewed.

Concerns were also raised regarding 'hourly' visitor permits and it is hoped that the feedback provided has informed the proposed introduction of the daily visitor permits instead.

The issuing of permits for occupations such as carers was raised, and the question asked what other occupations may be able to have permits granted and officers stated that the consultation exercise would be key to informing this.

## **Zones**

The committee suggested that learning from the pilot areas that have zones and parking gates are taken into consideration in the design and implementation of any new zones.

The rationale for the proposed zones in the city was broadly accepted with some concerns noted about the borders of the zones and areas adjacent to the University Hospital for Wales, for example.

The introduction of zoned parking was noted as being popular in some pilot areas. When asked by members if zones would be introduced in some of the outer wards, officers confirmed that only if this was requested. Whereas members from the city centre wards would welcome the introduction of zoning and restrictions being in place.

Concerns about the restrictions in the central zone were raised in relation to 'no loading' and the impact on businesses. Officers clarified that loading would be permitted from designated loading bays. They also stated that it is intended to keep the designated disabled parking bays in the city centre zone, in Windsor Place and Park Lane for example,

## **Consultation**

The committee felt that the voice of those that may be disadvantaged by the proposals should also be heard, specifically commuters and students.

Officers stated that the purpose of the plan was to improve the position for the tax paying residents of the city. However, it was acknowledged that the consultation could include 'journey to work areas' and that there are well established links with student bodies that could be utilised.

Members also noted that student medics and optometrists who are currently required to undertake placements in the community may be disadvantaged if they are unable to use their cars to travel to their placement.

For ease of reference, the requests detailed in this letter are:

- Further information relating to the introduction of car clubs when available.

One formal recommendation was made.

<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We recommend that groups that may be disadvantaged by any of the proposed parking zones are engaged in the consultation process to highlight any potential unknown issues, e.g., medical students and placements				

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and recommendations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Owen Jones**

**Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

*Cc: Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Andrew Gregory, Director for Planning, Transport & Environment*

*Jason Dixon, Operational Manger, Transport Development & Network Management*

*Chris Hanson, Principal Engineer, Transport Vision, Policy & Strategy.*

*Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives*

*Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground*

*Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats*

*Chris Pyke, Audit Manager*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications and External Relations*

*Claire Deguara, Acting Cabinet Business Manager*

*Graham Porter, Committee Clerk*