

## **East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report**

**Date:** 20 December 2023

**Report by:** Councillor Tim Hoskin, Executive Member  
for Environmental Sustainability

**Report title:** St Andrew Street Car Park, Hertford -  
Disabled Parking Spaces

**Ward affected:** Hertford Bengoe

### **Summary**

- To improve access for disabled visitors to the Hertford Theatre and Town Centre, East Herts officers undertook a review of disabled parking provision in St Andrew Street Car Park and identified suitable locations where two new disabled parking places could be introduced.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION:**

- (A) To approve the redesign of parking places in St Andrew Street Car Park including two additional disabled spaces, as shown in Appendix A.**
- (B) To advertise the Traffic Regulation Order.**
- (C) To authorise the Head of Operations to consider objections received in line with paragraph 10.17.19 of the Constitution and, where appropriate, overrule any such objections that are considered minor in nature.**
- (D) To authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Service to Make the Traffic Regulation Order.**

## **1.0 Proposal**

1.1 To enhance access for disabled customers in respect of blue badge parking spaces to improve accessibility to Hertford Theatre, following its redevelopment and expansion in terms of overall capacity for visitors.

1.2 The proposed redesign comprises of the following:

- The existing four disabled parking bays (nearest the car park vehicular exit) being repurposed into six bays in total including one disabled and five regular bays.
- The existing ten regular parking bays (nearest the pedestrian bridge leading to Hertford theatre) being repurposed into eight bays in total, including five disabled and three regular bays.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 East Herts council officers held pre-application scoping discussions with Hertfordshire County Council Highways Officers in April and September 2020. The East Herts Framework Travel Plan formed part of a planning application and identified the potential use of dedicated disabled parking bays in St Andrews Street car park.

2.2 Planning consultations were undertaken as part of a community engagement exercise, capturing numerous responses regarding parking and the need to improve accessibility.

2.3 At a Member Briefing in July 2020 it was noted that disabled parking provision needed careful consideration. The design response to this was to provide dedicated disabled parking

bays closer to the theatre.

- 2.4 In order to improve access to the theatre for disabled customers, East Herts officers undertook a review of disabled parking provision to identify suitable locations for blue-badge bays.

### **3.0 Reasons**

- 3.1 The redesign of the car park layout will result in the creation of two additional disabled parking places and improve accessibility to the Hertford Theatre and Town Centre in respect of the proximity.

### **4.0 Options**

- 4.1 **Not Recommended** - Continue to operate the car park in its current design. This will not improve accessibility to the theatre for disabled customers.
- 4.2 **Recommended** - Approve the redesign of the car park and enable the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order.

### **5.0 Risks**

- 5.1 None foreseen. The full public consultation will allow any interested person to comment on the proposal.

### **6.0 Implications/Consultations**

- 6.1 Statutory consultees including the Police and Hertfordshire Highways will be consulted, followed by a full public consultation.

## **Community Safety**

N/A.

## **Data Protection**

No

## **Equalities**

The EqIA will be completed prior to consultation and updated following the consultation.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

The availability of increased disabled parking spaces will provide capacity improvements and mitigate against the risk of Blue Badge customers not finding suitable parking, thus leading to additional vehicular movements on the public highway, adding to congestion and increasing pollution levels in the town centre.

## **Financial**

The transfer of two regular parking bays to two disabled bays, will result in reduced car park revenue from associated car park payments. Parking in disabled bays is currently free in all East Herts car parks. The estimated loss of annual income is £5,522 (calculated on the basis of X2 five-hour tariff daily payments (£4.30 per event) and X1 Sunday payment (£1.50).

The cost of drafting Traffic Regulation Order documents, advertising the proposal 'Notice' and 'Made Notice' (subject to public consultation outcome) in the press, and modification to the car park markings, through lining contractor, will not exceed £4,000 and will be met from a Hertford Theatre budget. The cost of modifying car park markings will be met through the existing car parking signing and lining budget.

## **Health and Safety**

No

## **Human Resources**

No

## **Human Rights**

No

## **Legal**

The advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order is a statutory requirement and undertaken in the form of public consultation via Notices displayed in the car park and 'Notice of Intention' advertised in the local press, allowing any interested person to comment during the four-week period.

## **Specific Wards**

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## **7.0 Background papers, appendices, and other relevant material**

### **7.1 Appendix A: St Andrew Street Car Park plan**

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