

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Directorate and Service Area:

Environment & Economy – Commercial

What is being assessed (eg name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change):

Amendment to Oxfordshire Parking Policy

Responsible owner / senior officer:

Steve Smith

Date of assessment:

31/07/2014

Summary of judgement:

The amendment to Oxfordshire Parking Policy will not negatively impact communities in West Oxfordshire. It is likely to bring some benefits to vulnerable groups within the district and the community as a whole.

Purpose of assessment:

The assessment has been carried out as the Parking Policy for Oxfordshire is proposed to be amended.

This document only reflects the amendments to the overarching parking policy and not the policy in its entirety.

Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) imposes a duty on the Council to give due regard to three needs in exercising its functions. This proposal is such a function. The three needs are:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic, and those who do not.

Complying with section 149 may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but only to the extent that that does not amount to conduct which is otherwise unlawful under the new Act.

The need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages which are connected to a relevant protected characteristic and which are suffered by persons who share that characteristic,
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and which are different from the needs other people, and
- encourage those who share a relevant characteristic to take part in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such people is disproportionately low.
- take steps to meet the needs of disabled people which are different from the needs of people who are not disabled and include steps to take account of a person’s disabilities.

The need to foster good relations between different groups involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

These protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex

- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership

Social Value

Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934¹ might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) has delegated powers to enforce civil parking contraventions under the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004). The removal of vehicles was not included in the delegation but provision was made for this to be sought separately should the need arise. As such, according to the current policy, illegally parked vehicles in the West Oxfordshire district cannot be removed by either WODC or Oxfordshire County Council.

On 27th June 2014, WODC applied to Oxfordshire County Council to formally request that powers to remove vehicles from the public highway be delegated to the District Council.

Proposals:

To amend the Parking Policy to include the delegation of powers to remove vehicles from the public highway, as part of Civil Parking Enforcement enforced under the TMA 2004, to West Oxfordshire District Council.

The amendment to the Oxfordshire Parking Policy will only affect West Oxfordshire District Council.

Evidence / Intelligence:

With the proposed amendment to the policy, WODC will be delegated powers to remove vehicles parked illegally and abandoned vehicles. Oxfordshire County Council will not be involved in the removal of vehicles in the West Oxfordshire District.

¹ [EC Procurement Threshold for Services](#)

The delegation of powers works well in the City of Oxford, although on a different basis to the proposed amendment. In the City of Oxford, Oxfordshire County Council as Highway Authority undertakes the removal of vehicles that have parked illegally and have been issued with a Penalty Charge Notice by NSL Services, while Oxford City Council removes abandoned vehicles. This process works very well within Oxford City and it is anticipated that WODC will realise similar benefits from delegated powers to deal with illegally parked vehicles.

Alternatives considered / rejected:

The request for the delegation of powers to remove vehicles could be rejected. This, however, would maintain a differential arrangement between Oxford City and West Oxfordshire. Benefits to traffic management to protect urban centres and other strategic routes and protection of disabled facilities would not therefore be fully realised. This option is not suitable because it will not be in line with OCC or WODC policies.

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

There are no anticipated major impacts on communities and groups as a result of the proposed amendments.

An expected benefit of the proposal is that it will provide greater powers for West Oxfordshire District Council to remove vehicles that are obstructing disabled bays, pavements and entrances. This will provide better access to these facilities for people with mobility issues, parents with small children, older people, and those with disabilities.

The proposal will also help to ensure that public highways remain clear for emergency services which serve the entire community.

Impact on Staff:

There are no staff implications as a result of the proposed amendment.

Impact on other Council services:

West Oxfordshire District Council will be responsible for the actual removal of vehicles and implementation of associated processes. No impacts on Oxfordshire County Council services have been identified.

Impact on providers:

No impacts on providers of Oxfordshire County Council services have been identified.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

Action plan:

There is no need for an action plan for this proposal.

Action	By When	Person responsible

Monitoring and review:

Person responsible for assessment: Dairusz Seroczynski

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	29/07/2014	Initial draft by Dairusz Seroczynski
1.1	30/07/2014	Draft amended by Helen Crozier and Dairusz Seroczynski following comments from Dominic Farrell and Philip Alderton
1.2	31/07/2014	Draft amended by Dominic Farrell following further discussions with Dairusz Seroczynski and Philip Alderton