

# Impact Assessment

Version 2017

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<b>Assessment of:</b>	<b>Western Road Parking Relocation</b>
<b>Service:</b>	<b>Planning, Transport and Environment</b>

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Dave Black
<b>Date of sign off by Head of Service/version:</b>	23 April 2019
<b>Assessment carried out by (incl. job title):</b>	Hannah Clark, Senior Transport Planning Officer

## Section 1 - Background

<b>Description:</b>	<p>Western Road, Ivybridge is the main arterial entry and egress from the town. It is an important link between the town centre and residential areas in the east of Ivybridge with the primary access onto the A38 for the town and residential areas in the west of Ivybridge. It currently suffers from congestion and poor air quality due to width restrictions caused by parked cars. The proposal is to relocate the on-street parking to a new car park, located on a verge between Wayside and Western Road. The removal of the existing bottleneck would reduce levels of pollution and form an important element of alleviating the poor air quality within the AQMA. The scheme also includes pavement widening, provision of a zebra crossing and demolition of the old firestation building.</p> <p>Improvements to Western Road AQMA has been identified in the South Hams Air Quality Action Plan.</p>
<b>Reason for change/review:</b>	<p>Western Road was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2009 due to poor levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in breach of the national objective. The main cause of the elevated levels of NO<sub>2</sub> is believed to be associated with road transport, exacerbated by width restrictions caused by parked cars. The gradual build-up of</p>

	queues causes congestion and the idling of engines waiting to pass creates a build-up of NO2. Traffic modelling has demonstrated that the removal of the on-street parking would smooth flows of traffic along Western Road.
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## Section 2 - Impacts, options and recommendations

See sections 3, 4 and 5 for background analysis

Options Appraisal and Recommendations:	<p>Two options were considered as part of a public consultation for the layout of the new car park and three options for the management of the spaces were considered. Aligning the spaces to the east of the verge and utilising the firestation footprint and inclusion within the existing Ivybridge parking permit zone 'C' was selected as the preferred options.</p> <p>In addition, the scheme under all options would include: double yellow lines introduced on Western Road where on-street parking is removed, pedestrian footways along the northern edge of Western Road widened to a minimum of 2m, the demolition of the old firestation building and the provision of a new zebra crossing.</p>
Social/equality impacts (summary):	<p>The positive impacts outlined below will be achieved through this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved environment for active travel through widening sub-standard footways and provision of a new crossing facility</li> <li>• Improved journey time reliability and safety for drivers on Western Road through removal of the existing pinchpoint</li> </ul> <p>The following negative impacts may be realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The removal of the on-street parking pinchpoint may result in increased speeds. Design features have been included to ensure the speed of the road is appropriate for its environment.</li> <li>• In the short term, during the construction works, it is anticipated that some negative impact will be realised as a result of traffic management.</li> <li>• The relocation of the parking spaces may result in cars being parked further from the homes using them.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is one disabled bay being relocated approximately 100m from the property it is registered to.</li> <li>• There may be longer waiting times for exiting Wayside at peak times due to the increase in cars using the road. However, it is expected that this will not be significant.</li> <li>• Wayside will experience an increase in traffic due to the relocation of the parking spaces. However, given the residential nature of these spaces, this is expected to result in a small number of additional movements per hour.</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the construction, local businesses and stakeholders will be kept informed of the proposed works and necessary traffic management.</p>
Environmental impacts (summary):	<p>The following positive impacts will be realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A decrease in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from improved traffic flow on Western Road</li> <li>• Improved opportunities for active travel</li> </ul> <p>The following negative impacts will be realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of greenspace and trees on Wayside verge</li> </ul>
Economic impacts (summary):	<p>The positive impacts outlined below will be achieved through this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access to the town centre of Ivybridge</li> <li>• Improved access to the A38</li> <li>• Improved journey times reliability for public transport</li> </ul> <p>The following negative impact will be realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the short term, during the construction works, it is anticipated that some negative impact will be realised as a result of traffic management.</li> </ul>
Other impacts (partner agencies, services, DCC policies, possible)	None identified.

'unintended consequences'):	
How will impacts and actions be monitored?	Air quality monitoring

# Background Analysis

This section describes how relevant questions and issues have been explored during the options appraisal.

## Section 3 - Profile and views of stakeholders and people directly affected

People affected:	The improvements to Western Road will affect all road users, permit holders in Ivybridge zone 'C' and local residents.
Diversity profile and needs assessment of affected people:	<p>The proposals have no adverse impact on a specific audience, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation and religion / belief. Improvements to the widths of the footways benefit pedestrians.</p> <p>The proposals include the relocation of one disabled parking bay.</p>
Other stakeholders (agencies etc.):	<p>Key stakeholders involved in the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Hams District Council</li><li>• Ivybridge Town Council</li></ul>
Consultation process and results:	<p>A public consultation was held between 14 January 2019 and 3 March 2019 which presented scheme options for the layout of the new car park as well as options for the permitting of the spaces. The consultation was posted on the Council's Have Your Say website (<a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/western-road-ivybridge-parking-relocation/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/western-road-ivybridge-parking-relocation/</a>). Local residents, nearby businesses and a number of community groups were contacted separately as part of this consultation. Proposals were also presented to Ivybridge Town Council and a drop-in public exhibition was held at Ivybridge Library which was attended by over 140 people.</p> <p>102 questionnaires were received during the consultation period. These responses showed overall support for the need to improve traffic flow along Western Road (77% of respondents agreeing with this). 55% preferred the layout of Option B and 64% wanted the new spaces to remain in permit area 'C'.</p>
Research and information used:	<p>Design Standards: Traffic Signs Manual, TSRGD 2016</p> <p>Traffic surveys and modelling, air quality measurements, public consultation</p>

## Section 4a - Social Impacts

### Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity and
- Foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief.

This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).

The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:

- Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
- Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
- Fair
- Necessary
- Reasonable, and
- Those affected have been adequately consulted.

<b>Characteristics</b>	<p><b>In what way can you eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage?</b></p> <p><b>Are there any lawful, reasonable and proportionate, unavoidable negative consequences?</b></p>	<p><b>In what way can you advance equality (meet needs, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps').</b></p> <p><b>In what way can you foster good relations between groups (tackle prejudice and promote understanding), if relevant?</b></p>
All residents (include generic equality provisions):	<p>Western Road parking relocation will improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion for mainly motor vehicles. However, the scheme has been designed to consider vulnerable road users and include improvements to pedestrians in particular through wider footways and an additional crossing facility.</p> <p>There will be some associated increase in speeds along Western Road. However, measures have been taken to control speeds to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footway widening provided as well as additional crossing facilities</li> <li>• Any necessary disabled bays will be relocated to the new car parking, with its positioning selected to minimise additional distance travelled</li> <li>• Speed of vehicles will be managed through a 6m carriageway and the presence of a pedestrian crossing</li> <li>• Some enhancement of the existing greenspace could be provided to mitigate the loss of trees</li> </ul>

	<p>within the speed limit and ensure speeds remain appropriate.</p> <p>There will be some increased traffic demand on Wayside. However, the small number of parking spaces (22) is anticipated to result in minimal additional traffic movements per hour.</p> <p>Some greenspace and trees will be lost due to the construction of the car park. There is mitigation proposed to provide a betterment to the remaining verge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scheme will improve the air quality of residents in the Western Road AQMA</li> </ul>
Age:	Not relevant	The scheme will improve the air quality of the local environment, regardless of age
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, ill health) and carers of disabled people:	There is one existing disabled parking bay on Western Road. The distance between the parking space and residence will be increased.	<p>The disabled parking bay in the new car park will be located to the eastern end to minimise the distance required to travel.</p> <p>Existing footways are sub-standard and are not suitable widths for wheelchair use. The footway on the northern side of Western Road will be a minimum of 2m with an additional crossing facility provided.</p>
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, skin colour, religion and belief:	Not relevant	Not relevant
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and	Not relevant	Not relevant



transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed).		
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership:	Not relevant	Not relevant
Other socio-economic factors such as families, carers, single people/couples, low income, vulnerability, education, reading/writing skills, 'digital exclusion' and rural isolation.	Not relevant	It is recommended that the new car parking spaces remain within the existing parking permit zone. An alternative of allocating spaces to specific houses is not recommended. This would result in an increased cost for permits and potentially exclude certain socio-economic groups.
Human rights considerations:	Not relevant	

### Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience?

Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs.

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?	<p>Improved access to / from the town centre and the Strategic Road Network will improve journey time reliability for public transport using the route, helping to encourage the use of public transport.</p> <p>Improved facilities for non-motorised users will provide better opportunities for sustainable travel.</p>
In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?	The scheme will reduce levels of pollution and form an important element of alleviating the poor air quality within the AQMA. This will help contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community.

	The improvements to pavement widths and provision of a zebra crossing will encourage alternative modes of transport contributing to the independence and wellbeing of the general public.
In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?	Access to / from Ivybridge town centre and community 'hubs' will be improved helping people to better connect with their communities and engage in social activities.

## Section 4b - Environmental impacts

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties.

The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please select from the table below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

X	Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process
	Planning Permission
	Environmental Impact Assessment
	Strategic Environmental Assessment

	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences.</b>  <b>(Consider how to mitigate against these).</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes.</b>  <b>(Consider how to improve as far as possible).</b>
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Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	Not applicable	DCC's Minor Works Framework Contract will be used to implement the project which includes basic principles of waste management all contractors on the framework have signed up to. A Waste Management Plan will also be produced.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	<p>Approx 350m<sup>2</sup> of greenspace and three trees will be lost due to the car park construction.</p> <p>It is proposed that some enhancement is provided to the remaining greenspace, in consultation with the Horticultural department at South Hams District Council.</p>	Not applicable
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	Expected positive	Reductions in greenhouse gases from reducing existing engine idling and stop-start conditions due to the removal of the on-street parking bottleneck.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	Expected positive	Reductions in noise and air pollution from reducing existing engine idling and stop-start conditions due to the removal of the on-street parking bottleneck.

Contribute to reducing water consumption:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):	Not applicable	Not applicable
Other (please state below):	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Section 4c - Economic impacts

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences.  (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes.  (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:	Not applicable	Improved access to schools in Ivybridge
Impact on employment levels:	Not applicable	Improved access to employment opportunities in Ivybridge and wider employment opportunities, such as Lee Mill and Plymouth, from Ivybridge.
Impact on local business:	Not applicable	Local businesses will be more accessible.

### Section 4d -Combined Impacts

Linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts:	Improvements to remove the existing pinchpoint caused by on-street parking will improve the flow of traffic on Western Road, and as a result improve access to and from key locations in Ivybridge. The local environment will be improved through improved air quality as a result of these impacts. The scheme will also provide improved facilities for pedestrians, providing additional health benefits to the local community.
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## Section 5 - 'Social Value' of planned commissioned/procured services:

How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?	<p>Environmental and social wellbeing will be improved through improved air quality and facilities for sustainable travel.</p> <p>Economic and social wellbeing will be improved through better access to community facilities.</p>
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