Amy Stringer

The wider practical issues with implementing an Article 4 Direction have been mooted, which little consideration of how these would then be managed being suggested. One of the main potential problems and one that is of great concern to students is transport.

Students in general rely on public transport due to the cost of running private transport and the lack of parking availability; especially at the University of Bath (this is in line with the Council's desire to keep student car usage low to reduce congestion). Having dedicated services that serve the universities allows them to cope with the high level of demand, which non-dedicated services would cripple under.

Even now, with bus services that are widely regarded as the best in the city, peak time demand is unable to cope with student numbers accessing the university campuses. A greater dispersal of students around the city would require a vastly improved transport network.

In point 5.13, the report states that "Transport services has expressed concern about the impact of dispersing student HMOs away from the key bus routes to the Universities will lead to less sustainable travel patterns and may adversely impact on the Universities' travel plans." Evidence is already available to show the bottle-neck effect of passengers and buses in the city centre at peak travel times. Further dispersal of student HMOs will only increase this problem, especially focused on the city centre. The dedicated travel routes also allow the other services in the city to act at an appropriate capacity, giving services tailored to the needs of the areas.

Alongside this, many female students especially also rely on good public transport links to limit the dangers associated with walking home alone in the dark. While Bath is a relatively safe city, students coming here to study are from all over the world where night-time safety is a key concern. It is also very difficult for the majority of students to ensure they are always travelling home with someone due to the variety of lifestyles kept including the availability of the 24 hour library at the University of Bath Campus. Therefore good transport links that run at appropriate hours will always be a key factor in where to live.