

Parking Review Statement to Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel December 2017

I would like to comment on 2 areas: Draft Coach Strategy and Council Travel to Work Plans

1) The recent draft coach strategy is flawed as increasing the number of drop-off spaces within the centre of Bath is incompatible with the council's stated policies to cut air pollution and reduce traffic. Coach drop-offs should be provided at locations outside the city centre and areas of high pollution. This is already practised in many larger UK and European cities. Those with mobility issues could be dropped off closer in existing car parks.

The Scrutiny Panel should reject the current Coach Strategy plans and direct that a revised strategy is produced which removes coach traffic from the city centre, to assist with reducing air pollution below the legal limit.

2) The Council has a Business Engagement Account Manager dedicated to working with employers to encourage their staff to use active and sustainable travel to get to work. Perhaps in the light of the comments made in the CTE informal session, about council employees taking up most of the long term parking in Keynsham, which is probably duplicated in Bath, the council should first put their own house in order and concentrate on reducing their own employees use of cars to get to work. Setting an example to other businesses would not only ease congestion and pollution within both city centres, but also serve as a model which could be developed and replicated by other organisations.

I would hope that members of the Scrutiny Panel already 'practice what they preach' and do not drive polluting vehicles to council meetings. I would also like the Panel to request the Business Engagement Account Manager targets and reviews the council's own Travel to Work plans, with the aim of significantly reducing the impact of council employees journeys.