

Carole Cameron Statement to Cabinet

I am speaking on behalf of Bath Independent Hospitality Association concerning the proposed changes to Hotel Permits in the TRO Report

THE CONSULTATION

- Singularly failed to interact with local small business providers
- And continues to ignore the concerns of local hospitality owners
- Results are biased and skewed

THE PARKING ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED POLICY

- makes no effort to provide new or supplementary alternatives to compensate for the parking facility it removes – rather it simply places greater demand and pressure on limited ‘off street’ parking locations
- is devoid of alternative options, trials or solutions
- is driven by a naive belief that behavioural change will be achieved simply by making parking awkward for tourists and visitors
- Finally, it places an incremental levy on an already challenged independent business sector, of between 10-15%
- thereby threatening the very survival of these independent, regulated, hospitality businesses.

THE IMPLICATIONS

- Implementation will be staged in a guillotine manner with disregard for the benefit of moderated transition
- The scheme is unworkable.....
- And will result in significantly less accessible parking facilities, prompting thousands of additional vehicle commutes across the City – increasing congestion and pollution of the local environment. This surely, is inherently contradictory to the strategic objectives of the Council.

So please explain....

Why has the Council failed to engage with our sector over the past 12 months – particularly those who will be most hard hit in the Central Zone and Zone 1?

Why is the Council penalising the independent, regulated, tax contributing hospitality sector and so enhancing the substantial advantage already enjoyed by the grey, non business rate paying, unregulated, Airbnb sector.

Our members work hard to provide the World Heritage City of Bath with a unique hospitably offer. A service well received by countless visitors to the City year on year and whose substantial spend contributes to its financial well being. These measures will have a devastating impact on the viability of this important business sector within the City.

We appeal to you to support our request that **‘no changes to the existing scheme for Hotel and Guest House permits as described in Appendix D of the TRO report, be implemented until a workable and agreeable solution can be found.’**

We recognise the need for change, are not resistant to change, but believe suitable, workable alternatives should be explored and tested prior to a permanent change being implemented.

Please work with us to secure a win-win policy outcome that eases on-street parking, increases council revenues, reduces congestion and the collective carbon footprint.

Thank you