



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Ash Denham

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Eastern Constituency

Elected Member of the  
Transport and Environment Committee  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Edinburgh

Our Ref: AD7977

17 August 2021

Dear Councillor

I write to you on behalf of a great number of constituents in Edinburgh Eastern constituency who are concerned about proposals set out within the Strategic Review of Parking, which will be considered on Thursday by Edinburgh Council's Transport & Environment Committee, of which you are a member.

There is a clear understanding that the City of Edinburgh Council have set many objectives to reduce congestion and car use within the city by my constituents. However, the consultants who make the recommendation to approve the proposed CPZ in Willowbrae North, Easter Road and West Leith, all of which impact directly onto my constituency, recognise themselves that these current proposals alone will not achieve this and will simply push congestion and parking problems into neighbouring areas that are not yet proposed.

Whilst I note that a community consultation process has been undertaken, the constituents who have reached out for my support have concerns that parking restrictions will be implemented in streets where local residents do not believe it is needed. This is confirmed by the Council's own evidence as the following excerpt shows;

" A migration of parking pressures from any area where new controls are introduced is an anticipated outcome. In almost every case, the areas that have indicated that they currently experience no parking problems are located directly adjacent to areas that are likely to become controlled parking zones. Mitigating against migration is a key consideration for all Phase 2 areas"

I have previously pointed out that the proposed restrictions would force households to purchase parking permits at further cost to already stretched household expenses during a particularly challenging time, financially, for many. The areas within my constituency includes some of the poorest areas in the city. I have not yet been made aware of any mitigation that the Council will offer to support my constituents. I would also like to ask if there are any plans to include a reduction in the cost of a permit to households who are not in a position to easily afford it? Many of my constituents with low incomes will rely on their own transport to travel to work. Others, particularly the elderly and those with mobility issues feel that their car is their only way to live independently.

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On a separate but linked point - if we want people to leave cars behind we must offer them a sustainable alternative. In the past 18 months or so constituents have sought my support over the changes/withdrawal to a number of valued bus routes in my constituency, including the 13, 19 and 69. I once again, ask the Council and Lothian Buses to reconsider these decisions and look to reinstate fully these routes when possible.

All of these routes have been removed from areas now included in the proposed CPZ. I believe, if we want to reduce reliance on cars, and therefore reduce the need for controlled parking zones, we cannot continue to reduce or cut vital bus services that run in and around the city. These issues go hand in hand and must be considered together.

I would respectfully suggest that the Council increase public transport provision, particularly to the areas around Lochend, Restalrig and Meadowbank that now find themselves included in the proposals. By doing so, you will give an alternative to the car, to those who need it most. The recommendations you will consider on Thursday, actually point out that by agreeing these CPZs, you will migrate the issues to other areas. The area between Portobello (Phase 4) and Easter Road (Phase 2) is a densely populated area that has been hugely impacted by the loss of the bus services mentioned above.

I would further suggest that the Councillors recognise that residents have used the democratic process to voice their concerns and this should not be disregarded. I submit that the proposed CPZs are delayed to allow and progress public transport options to offer more sustainable transport alternatives for all of the residents affected and to encourage increased use on public transport and decrease reliance on private vehicles.

Yours sincerely

**Ash Denham MSP**  
**Edinburgh Eastern Constituency**