

12.14**Directorate****Director****Manager****Attachment(s)****Proposed Additional Accessible Parking in front of
Brimbank Community & Civic Centre**

Infrastructure and City Services

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Nil

Purpose

To provide a report in response to the Notice of Motion adopted at the Council meeting of 17 October 2023, seeking advice on the feasibility, costing and options for the redesignation of the existing parking bays at the entrance to the Brimbank Community and Civic Centre (BCCC) to accommodate an additional accessible parking bay.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- a. **Notes this report has been provided in response to a Notice of Motion endorsed by Council in October 2023;**
- b. **Notes the findings of the feasibility, costings and options report;**
- c. **Endorses Option C in this report, which would retain the existing parking bays along Hampshire Road (comprising of one accessible bay and two short term parking bays).**

Background

This report has been drafted in response to a Notice of Motion adopted at the Council meeting of 17 October 2023.

The Brimbank Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) has been established to provide input and advice to Council and to champion accessibility and inclusivity for people with disability. The DAC has advocated for additional accessible parking at the entrance to the Brimbank Community and Civic Centre (BCCC).

As part of the construction of the BCCC (opened in July 2016), three parking bays were provided along Hampshire Road to provide short term parking (15 minutes) and opportunities for loading and unloading.

Since the opening of the BCCC, people with a disability have raised concerns at the lack of parking at the entrance. In November 2016, one of the car parking bays along Hampshire Road (outside the BCCC) was converted to an accessible car parking bay and additional accessible car parking bays were constructed outside Visy Hub.

On 12 September 2023, DAC members encountered misuse and disregard for the existing accessible bay, creating a barrier for people with a disability wanting to enter the building. This is an ongoing issue that has been raised at previous DAC and Brimbank Disability Network Group meetings.

At Council's meeting held on October 17, 2023, the following motion was moved:

That Council receive a feasibility, costing and options report for the redesignation of the existing parking bays at the entrance to the Brimbank Community and Civic Centre (BCCC) to accommodate an additional accessible park.

Matters for Consideration

Options

- A. Convert one existing short term car parking bay to an accessible car parking bay. This would allow for two accessible car parking bays and one short term parking bay. To accommodate these works, modifications to the kerbing and streetscape along Hampshire Road would be required as the parking bays would need to be widened to comply with the Australian Standards. The existing accessible car parking bay would also be required to be modified as it currently does not comply with the Australian standards. The cost estimate for this option is \$85,000.
- B. The existing short term parking bays (x2) are converted to accessible car parking bays. This would require modifications to the kerbing and streetscape as the parking bays would need to be widened to comply with the Australian Standards. The existing accessible bay would also need to be modified as it currently does not comply with the Australian standards. This would result in three accessible car parking bays with no provisions for short term parking for members of the community who are not a holder of a disabled parking permit. The cost estimate for this option is \$100,000.
- C. Existing parking bays along Hampshire Road (comprising of one accessible bay and two short term parking bays) remain as they are, with enforcement to ensure appropriate use. The current parking conditions allow for short term parking for members of the community to access the BCCC and library while also providing a parking space for someone with a disability. Holders of a disabled parking permit are permitted to park for longer periods within the short-term parking bays. There is no additional cost for this option.

Analysis

As part of the construction of the BCCC, three parking bays were constructed along Hampshire Road to provide short term parking opportunities for members of the community accessing the BCCC and Library. In November 2016, one car parking bay was converted to an accessible car parking bay to allow for parking opportunities for people with a disability. As part of these works, additional accessible parking spaces were also constructed outside Visy Hub.

There are currently eight accessible carparks within close proximity of the BCCC and further accessible car parking bays in the shopping precinct. A Parking Occupancy survey from 2019 for the Sunshine Town Centre showed that the occupancy rate for disabled bays was 74% across the Centre.

Anecdotal evidence suggests there is high demand for short term parking in this location and that these parks are highly valued by those accessing shops and services in the area, including by members of the community with mobility issues that do not have a permit to park in bays designated as disabled parking.

Council officers have undertaken a feasibility costings and options study for the conversion of the existing car parking bays to allow for an additional accessible car parking bay. To ensure the accessible car parking bay is constructed in accordance with the Australian standards, the street furniture along Hampshire Road would need to be removed to allow for the parking bay to be widened and the pram ramps constructed. The existing accessible car parking bay would also be required to be upgraded to the current Australian Standards. In addition, service relocation works would be required to accommodate the installation of the accessible car parking bays.

The cost to convert one short term car parking bay, upgrade the existing accessible car parking bay and associated works is estimated at \$85,000, resulting in two accessible car parking bays and one short term car parking bay.

As part of the study, an alternative option was considered where the existing two short term car parking bays are converted to accessible car parking bays. This would result in three accessible car parking bays, limiting the car parking outside the BCCC to only disabled parking permit holders. The cost to undertake these works is estimated at \$100,000.

The third option is for the car parking arrangement to remain as it is, which provides one accessible car parking bay and two short term car parking bays. Note, Disabled parking permit holders are permitted to stay for longer durations within the short-term car parking bays.

Implementation

Given the estimated \$85,000 cost of converting one short term parking bay to disabled parking, or \$100,000 to convert two short-term parking bays to accessible parking bays, and noting there seems to be sufficient disabled parking bays in the Sunshine Town Centre to accommodate the demand at most times, it is recommended that the existing parking restrictions remain.

Community Engagement

Report back to the DAC and Brimbank Disability Network Group meeting with the outcome of the Council decision.

Resource And Risk Implications

No additional resources are required.

Community: Ongoing concerns from DCA due to lack of accessible car parking outside the BCCC if an additional accessible car parking bay is not provided.

There are no Environmental, Financial, Regulatory or Safety impacts.

Legislation/Council Plan/Policy Context

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategic direction and objective of:

2. Places and Spaces - Liveable and connected neighbourhoods that support healthy and sustainable futures - A green place for all

- Liveable and Connected - Inviting and liveable spaces and facilities, connected so people can get around.

This report complies with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report, have no conflicts of interests to declare.