

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal  
Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Petition for Alteration of Waiting Restrictions, Queens Avenue,  
Widnes

**WARDS:** Ditton

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report receipt of an 80 signature petition and associated individual letters that have been received requesting alteration of the waiting restrictions on Queens Avenue, Widnes.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION that:**

**[1] That the requested alteration of the existing 40 minute time limited waiting arrangements adjacent to the shop units in Queens Avenue, Widnes be refused.**

**[2] That the lead petitioners and individual writers be so informed.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The immediate area of the Argos/Homebase offices at Queens Avenue/Royal Avenue in Widnes, is subject to intense pressure on available on and off-road parking provision as a result of these offices, the adjacent housing and the shops on Queens Avenue.

3.2 At the present time, the parking bays on the shops side of Queens Avenue are limited to 40 minutes stay time, with unrestricted parking on the other side. There are also 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions in the area of the junctions with Royal Avenue and Coronation Drive, in order to protect sightlines. Maximum use is being made of available space. The short stay parking provision is intended to provide a high turnover in the use of the bays to give better access to the shops for the majority of customers, with the unrestricted parking available for visitors needing to make a longer visit. The present arrangements are shown on Drg. No. 9781 in Appendix 'A'. On-road parking is available to all highway users, and the Council is not able to reserve certain spaces for exclusive use by customers of certain businesses.

3.3 Residents have complained about various parking issues including: the blocking of driveways; all-day parking in the limited stay bays near the shops; and use of 'private' housing association car parks by office workers. These issues culminated in a meeting between residents' representatives, ward councillors, Cheshire Police and managers from Argos/Homebase in February 2015. The company agreed to make every effort to be a 'good neighbour' by reminding its staff to park responsibly and by updating its workers' vehicles database, allowing individual drivers to be located in work on receipt of a specific complaint. Cheshire Police agreed to provide extra enforcement in the area to ensure visitors comply with the waiting stay limits to try and stop drivers parking in the short-stay bays for long periods of time. The Council arranged to remark and re-sign the short-stay parking bays.

3.4 Possibly as a result of the renewed Police attention, one effect of which has been to reduce the abuse of the 40 minute duration of stay limit on the parking bays adjacent to the Queens Avenue shops, the Council has received the following from/via Mr. Derek Twigg, M.P. for Halton:

- Four individual letters from shop owners/operators all requesting an increase in the parking stay time limit, generally to 2 hours.
- An 80 signature petition requesting a 2 hour stay limit.
- A letter supporting another business's request for a 2 hour stay limit.

3.5 Whilst it is accepted that it might be in the interests of some business and their customers to have a 2 hour time limit on the parking bays near the shops, this would severely restrict parking space turnover. It would also limit the number of visitors able to access the businesses directly by being able to drive to the shops and then being able to park immediately near their destination. It is also not clear how a two hour stay would dissuade Argos/Homebase employees from parking there.

3.6 Ward Councillors and Cheshire Police have been consulted and support retention of the present 40 minute stay duration on the bays adjacent to the shops, Cheshire Police pointing out that the present restrictions were introduced "to prevent extended parking outside the shops and provide a short term area for those persons visiting said shops". It is recommended, therefore, that the current 40 minute restriction be retained and that those requesting a change to a longer period restriction be informed accordingly.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Safer Halton' priority.

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Urban Renewal' priority.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are risks to the viability of businesses in the area if the existing short-stay waiting restrictions are retained or revised, but short-stay parking is needed adjacent to shops and there is unrestricted parking in the immediate area, including Lodge Road at the rear of the shops.

7.2 No full risk assessment is required.

## **8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.**

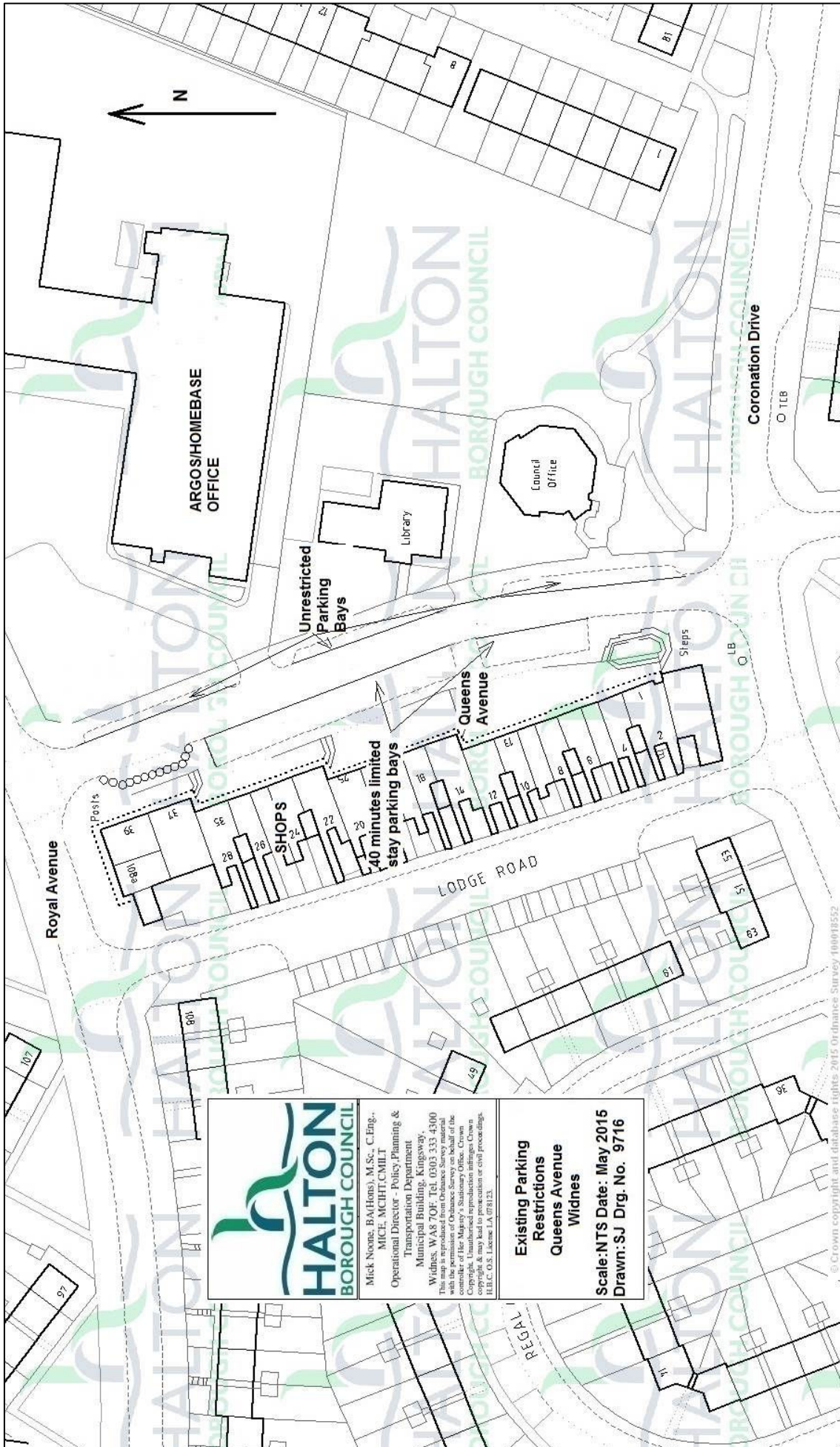
8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 **Document:** Petition and individual letters, which will be brought to the meeting but which have not been added as an Appendix to protect individual's identities.

**Place of Inspection:** At meeting.

**Contact Officer:** Steve Johnson, Lead Officer, Traffic & Road Safety



 <p><b>HALTON</b> BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Mick Noone, BA(Hons), M.Sc., C.Eng., MICE, MCIFM, CMILT Operational Director - Policy, Planning &amp; Transportation Department Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA9 7DF. Tel. 0303 333 4300 This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown copyright &amp; may be used in reproduction or other proceedings. H.B.C. O.S. License LA 078123.</p>
	<p><b>Existing Parking Restrictions Queens Avenue Widnes</b></p> <p>Scale: NTS Date: May 2015 Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 9716</p>

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