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| Subject: | BAi360 Impacts on Regency Square | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 9th October 2018 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Mark Prior | Tel: 01273 292295 |
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| Ward(s) affected: | Regency | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 A Petition was presented and debated at the 19th July Full Council Meeting that concerned a range of traffic and public realm impacts within the Regency Square area relating to the growth of visitors to the British Airways i360 (BAi360).
- 1.2 Following the recommendations made at Full Council this Report reviews the requests outlined in the petition and identifies possible solutions to be taken forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress with solutions outlined in 3.4 to 3.8 to deliver on the requests outlined in 3.1 to 3.3.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the ongoing work being undertaken with the Regency Square Community Steering Group to determine and agree priorities that could be taken forward should funding become available from BAI360 ticket revenue or bid funding.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the opening of the BAI360 in 2016 local residents have raised concerns over a range of issues associated with traffic management, parking pressures and access to local amenities arising from impacts generated by the additional visitors to the new attraction.
- 3.2 A petition was presented to the meeting of Full Council on 19th July 2018 calling for prevention of motorcycle parking on the pebbled hard standing at the front of Regency Square, provision for residents to park in Regency Square Car Park alongside the removal of up to 73 on street parking bays. The petition also called for concreting or screed to be applied over the cobbled areas to provide pedestrian access, improvements in lighting and maintenance of the steps and railings.

- 3.3 The petition was subsequently debated and recommended to be presented to ETS Committee and further consideration given to discussing these issues with the petitioners, the Regency Square Society and stakeholders discharging the 1% re-distribution of BAI360 income for local projects.
- 3.4 One issue highlighted is inadequate motorcycle parking that has led to incidences of increased parking of motorcycles within the Regency Square area. Officers have noted this and will be investigating the possibility of including a motorcycle bay within the next City-wide Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.5 Currently there are no plans to remove on-street parking bays to create additional traffic lanes and allow Zone Z Permit Holders to park free of charge in Regency Square Car Park as this would require additional investment in payment management systems within the Car Park as well as loss in income due to reduction in both on-street and off-street parking. However, there is a permit review underway that will be looking at options for a range of permit issues across the City that will include Zone Z.
- 3.6 Officers have looked at concerns over the suitability of the cobbled areas that are fulfilling their primary purpose of deterring pedestrian access as well as providing an attractive feature that sets off the adjacent monument and landscaping, Officers also feel that sufficient walkways are provided to enable safe pedestrian access.
- 3.7 The petition's concerns relating to existing street lighting is likely to be addressed with forthcoming arrangements to upgrade all Public Highway lighting to more efficient LED lanterns over the next 3 years. The programme will be drawn up and agreed shortly and members will be advised on planning and specific area arrangements.
- 3.8 The petition further outlined cleaning and maintenance issues around the memorial statue and with the condition of the railings and protective (paint) system. Officers have indicated that these works will be compiled into a bidding process to the Planned Maintenance Budget (PMB) 19/20 programme where it is likely to be allocated funding and taken forward next year.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The potential solutions set out within paragraphs 3.4 to 3.8 are either deliverable within existing work streams or able to be determined through inclusion within forthcoming work plans.
- 4.2 A Community Steering Group has been established to consult with the Regency Square Area residents to better understand the wider community priorities that will determine the potential allocation of the specified ticket revenue for agreed projects. At present the level of funding available for this purpose cannot be determined until detailed analysis of the first full year of ticket sales and following further deductions for agreed obligations as required under the Section 106 Agreement have been determined.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Following receipt of the petition at July Full Council and recommendations to this Committee, no further consultation has been undertaken.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is recommended to proceed with the proposals outlined within the main body of the report and to continue consulting on further arrangements with the established Steering Group.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The solutions outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 above will be funded from existing service budgets and will be monitored as part of the Targeted Budget Monitoring (TBM) process.

Finance Officer Consulted: Gemma Jackson

Date: 19/09/18

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Traffic Management Act 2004 places the Council as traffic authority under a duty to manage the road network with a view to securing as far as reasonably practicable the expeditious movement of traffic on the road network. Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the Council is under a duty to exercise their functions to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of all traffic.
- 7.3 The actions detailed in this report will assist in demonstrating that the Council will comply with its statutory duties.

Lawyer Consulted: Stephanie Stammers

Date: 14/09/18

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 Access and mobility issues were considered and balanced against existing arrangements and design features that are intrinsic to the original layout and landscaping.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 None identified.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 None identified.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None