

20. HEREFORD STREET-CATHEDRAL SQUARE: BUS AND TOUR COACH STOP

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Corporate Plan Output: On Street Management	

The purpose of this report is to create bus and tour coach stops in Hereford Street and in Cathedral Square as a result of the relocation of the Information Centre from Oxford Terrace to the old Post Office Building in Cathedral Square.

The Information Centre is planning to move their premises in early August. Associated with the shift is the need to relocate the tour coach and bus facilities with the Centre. At present there is an area outside their premises in Oxford Terrace for two Large vehicles as well as a length of short term parking which is used as a drop off area. It is common for some of the vehicles associated with the Centre to use some of the tour coach park along the northern side of the Worcester Boulevard.

It is proposed to replace the existing facilities with a coach park in Hereford Street and in Cathedral Square. The proposed bus and coach park in Hereford Street is to be located on the north side, adjacent to the post office building, which is presently occupied with 4 metered parking spaces. This stop can accommodate a large vehicle and a small vehicle or two middle size vehicles, at the same time.

The situation in Cathedral Square is more difficult. Parking outside the old Post Building is limited. At present there are ten P5 parking spaces this area, one of which, is a space set aside for mobility cardholders only. This area is extensively used at present and there is no opportunity to reduce the parking spaces and at the same time provide for the increased numbers of visitors to the Square. On the north side of this part of the Square there are only commuter bus stops. None of these spaces will be available as a result of the move of the bus services to the new bus exchange complex in November this year. It is possible that some provision can be made in April next year when all the commuter buses leave the Square. However this will need to be considered as part of stage V of the Cathedral Square redevelopment.

It is proposed to permit some of the tourist services to use the bus stop on the northern side of Worcester Street adjacent to the pedestrian crossing: this is the stop used for the airport bus. While the coach park area to the west of this stop is available for use for a number of coaches it is considered unsuitable by the Information Centre Manager as it is to be out of the line of sight from the new Centre.

There is an area to the south of the tram stop, which is presently marked as no stopping area, that is proposed to use as a small coach park. This area has previously been kept clear of parking to provide a clear line of site from the Cathedral down the boulevard to the museum. One space can be provided without seriously compromising this 'vista' but providing additional spaces would have a considerable impact. Parking here would also have an impact on pedestrian access to the centre part of the Square and the manoeuvring area for the existing P5 car parks.

These proposals have the support of the Parking Manager and Information Centre Manager.

- Recommendation:**
1. That a bus coach and park with a time limit of 30 minutes be created on the northern side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 73 metres measured in an westerly direction from a point opposite the western kerblines of Colombo Street and extending in an westerly direction for a distance of 24 metres.
 2. That a small coach park with a time limit of 10 minutes be created in the northwestern quadrant of Cathedral Square on the northern side of the kerb in the P5 Loading area.
 3. That the existing parking restrictions in the above-described areas be revoked.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the recommendation not be proceeded with at present and that a new design for the northwest quadrant of Cathedral Square be presented to the August meeting of the Committee.