

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

MEMBERS COUNCIL

FREEMAN HOSPITAL - CAR PARKING STRATEGY

1. INTRODUCTION

Integral to the commissioning of the Northern Centre for Cancer Care and Renal Services Centre development on the Freeman Hospital site, a car parking strategy has been developed to enable management of car parking and traffic flow on site.

Key to implementing this strategy will be the introduction of appropriate methods of access control to enable management of on site parking for staff, patients and visitors, as set out below.

Separate discussions are ongoing with the City Council with regard to traffic flows on the site and Public Service Vehicle (bus) access. The outcome of this will need to be considered, however that can be undertaken discretely from the car parking management proposals as set out in the paper. In view of the critical timing to progress the car parking management proposals, the car parking management proposals have been considered separately from the traffic flows issues.

2. OUTLINE PROPOSAL

a. Cardiothoracic Area – Car Park 2

This area requires installation of a 'pay station' to ensure ease of access for those using this facility. Currently patients/visitors have to use the pay stations located at the front of the Main Hospital Car Park No 1(316 spaces). This is inconvenient for those using the park and does not encourage use by patients and visitors to the Cardiothoracic Departments or Physiotherapy. This area will be identified in future patient information as the park of choice for access to these facilities.

It should be noted that this car park(105 spaces) whilst currently underutilised (20% occupancy) has been vacated by staff who have previously been transferred to the Multi-storey car park to the rear of the site. This additional capacity provides a contingency in respect of the following:

- Future development of the site will create additional pressures on parking and this additional capacity provides a reserve for such events.
- Extension of the current Disabled access to the front of the main hospital car park (24 spaces currently under construction) will have some impact on capacity in this area and again provides an area for overflow. This will be kept under review on completion of the current works. Should the area remain underutilised then it is proposed that the area be redesignated as staff and public parking.

- Any development of the south side site of the hospital will require the provision of car parking for those attending any future clinical developments. Currently, car parking designated are Senior Clinical Staff parking to the rear of the Cardiothoracic Centre(53 spaces) has been designated for this purpose, and would require the decanting of this area.

Barriers have been installed in this area, as part of the development of the Main Hospital Car Park – 'Pay On Foot' system.

b. Consultant Car Park – Rear of Cardiothoracic Centre (53 spaces)

This area currently has no access control. Although previously established as a 'barriered' area, this technology has not been reinstated. Enabling works have been progressed to ensure power supply to the entrance in preparation for installation of barriers. However, to date the barrier installation is outstanding.

Installation of a 'barrier' solution will provide additional security for users of this area, and enable good management and preservation of the limited spaces required for Senior Trust staff, including 'out-of-hours' access.

c. Multi-Storey Car Park(840 spaces includes extension completed 2007)

Due to the introduction of public parking in this facility in 2008, it will be necessary to have a mixed economy of measures to ensure appropriate parking by both staff and patients.

i) Staff

Staff areas will be marked appropriately ie, 'Staff Only' Levels 2 – 13, with ramps marked to show 'Staff Only Beyond This Point'. Staff parking will be managed through permit issue and application process.

ii) Public

Public access will be restricted to Levels 0 – 1, providing approximately 100 spaces. The area will be marked appropriately as 'Patient and Visitor Parking Only'.

This area will be controlled by 'Pay and Display' with pay machines located on Level 0 and 1, in total three pay stations will be required.

d. Education Centre(83 spaces)

This area is currently staff parking only, providing a total of 83 spaces, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Access to this area will be controlled 'barrier access' with staff issued with permits, as is current practice. Access will be controlled by swipe or other access cards, as determined by development of staff identification badges (chip and pin technology).

3. CONCLUSION

Implementation of the above proposal will significantly improve current management and ease of access to parking for public and staff across the site.

Introduction of public/patient access to MSCP is an integral part of the original planning application supporting the development of the Cancer and Renal Services Centre. However, to ensure good management of parking in this and other parking areas on site, the proposal outlined above will be essential in enabling this.

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