

Report to Cabinet
12 November 2014
Report of Head of citywide services
Subject Byelaw to manage skateboarding in the city centre

Item

7

Purpose

To consider the byelaw consultation responses in relation to the council's proposal to make a byelaw prohibiting skateboarding* in a designated area of the city which will assist in preventing damage to historic buildings and preventing nuisance to members of the public using the highway.

*(including roller-blading and non-motorised scooters)

Recommendation

To recommend council to make a byelaw to manage skateboarding in the city centre.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority "A safe and clean city" and the service plan priority "tackling antisocial behaviour".

Financial implications

Funded from existing budgets.

Ward/s: Mancroft

Cabinet member: Councillor Driver, neighbourhoods and community safety

Contact officers

Michael Stephenson, public protection manager 01603 212283

Adrian Akester, head of citywide services 01603 2123331

Background documents

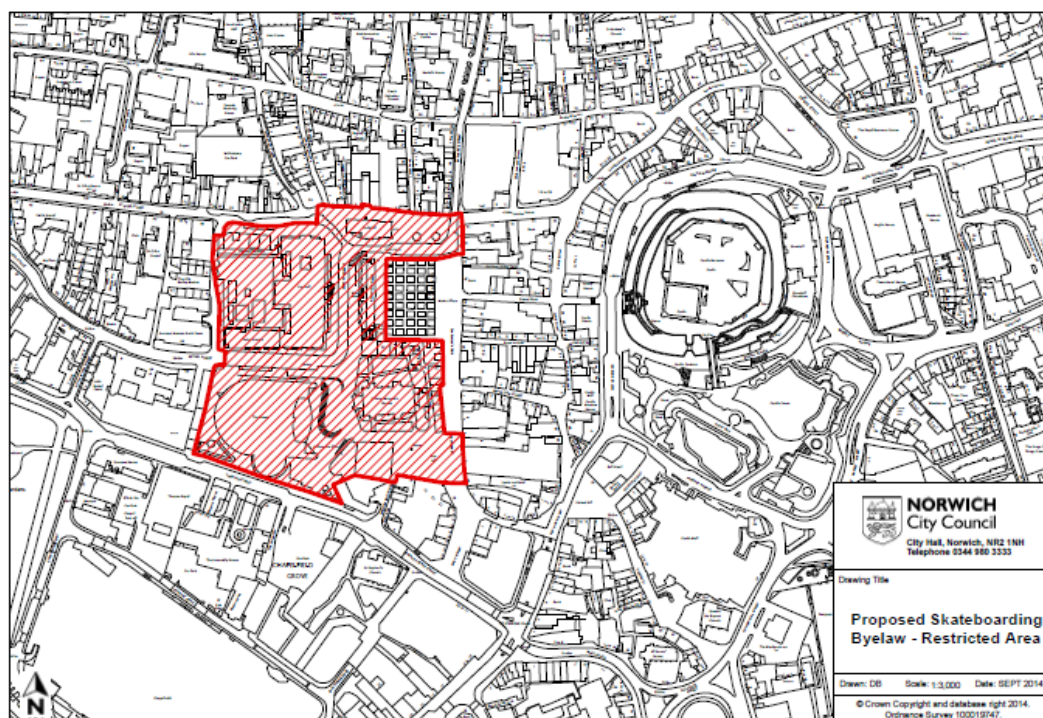
None

Report

Background

1. In June 2014 cabinet considered a report recommending the making of a byelaw to prohibit skateboarding in a designated area of the city to assist in preventing damage to historic buildings and nuisance to members of the public using the highway.
2. Cabinet resolved to recommend that council makes a byelaw to manage skateboarding in the city centre whilst taking into consideration the following:
 - a) that the areas (1 – 5 on page 112 of the report) affecting the War Memorial, Memorial Gardens, St Peter Mancroft, Gaol Hill leading to London Street, Forum, City Hall and Hay Hill are adopted under a bylaw (Fig 1);
 - b) that further and wider consultation on any areas outside of these listed above will be carried out before placing a finished byelaw proposal to the Secretary of State;
 - c) that special consideration will be made to ask for feedback from residents, special interest groups such as skateboarders and other relevant stakeholders; and
 - d) that further work will be carried to publicise the excellent skateboard parks in Norwich including asking the bus companies to look at whether providing signage and information at the bus station and train station.

Fig 1



Background to the consultation

3. The group we were most concerned with engaging throughout the consultation was the skateboarders. In fact, their input via cabinet members and officers prior to the consultation helped shape how we framed the consultation.
4. For example they were clear that there could be other things contributing to the damage, including misuse by scooters. The website link to the consultation was also sent to local skateboarding champions who put it out through their networks.
5. The consultation information was on the council's website in two places, including in premium position on our front page.
6. There have been lots of articles and letters in the press and a general debate on this issue in the media. It has been front page on the Evening News on at least two occasions.

Byelaw consultation responses

7. The consultation ran for six weeks, closing on Friday 17 October. The question posed was as follows:

"Do you think the area in question should be made bigger than outlined in the current proposal?"

Outcome headlines

8. The outcome of the consultation can be summarised as:
 - 312 responses in total
 - Yes: 6%
 - No: 92%
 - Don't know: 2%
9. In addition to the survey responses listed above, written representations were received from:

Norfolk Branch Royal Army Medical Corps Association	– Support byelaw
National Service (R.A.F.) Association	– Support byelaw
Royal Signals Association Norfolk Branch	– Support byelaw
Chapelfield Gardens Residents Association	– Support byelaw
Royal Naval Association	– Support byelaw
A member of the public	– Support byelaw
Councillor Carlo	– Not support byelaw

Outline conclusions

10. The consultation illustrates the strongly opposed views of city centre users, skateboarders, people who live and work in the city and those who visit.

11. Only 6% of people think it should be made bigger than outlined by cabinet. However, the strong 'voice' against the proposed byelaw comes mainly from skateboarding enthusiasts.
12. Other people are in support of the byelaw and think it should be made wider. It is a difficult balancing act but the council has to consider the needs of all city centre users.

Examples of comments

13. From those who thought the area should be bigger than proposed or were in support of the byelaw:

"The entire city centre."

"Cover the market as well. Not a playing area."

"Inner ring road."

"Extended to include the main shopping area."

"All over city esp. on pavements and in car parks. The council should also tighten up on cyclists on pavements too!"

"Castle Meadow and London Street."

"Should include the grave yard as you head towards Chapelfield."

"Should also include all areas of high footfall, due to danger to pedestrians – ie all of shopping areas in city centre."

"Elm Hill, Tombland."

"Castle Gardens including the moat and roof top park."

"Coburg Street adjacent to Chapelfield residential."

"It's a great idea. Pedestrians shouldn't feel unsafe walking through the city centre."

14. From those who thought the area should be smaller or are against the byelaw:

"Limited to the war memorial itself."

"The wording here is terrible. I believe that there should be NO area stopping people from skateboarding."

"Skateboarding can also be used as a form of transport, don't be so naive as to think all skateboarding is the same when it really isn't, so don't penalize the people who generally like to skate around and get from A to B."

"This byelaw should be dropped. Get with it council - we're in 2014 not 1914."

"Drop the proposal!"

“I think the problem will move outside the excluded area e.g. to Pottergate and London Street.”

“I would suggest that only welcoming comments for extending the area suggests you've already made your mind up. What a waste of my money.”

“I think that important heritage buildings/structures should be protected against the damage that can be caused by skateboarders/BMX's/Roller skaters etc but those should be individually marked as no skating areas as oppose to a areas of the city being zoned as no skating areas.”

Next steps

15. Following the meeting of cabinet on 12 November, a report will go to council on 25 November 2014.
16. If members agree that the byelaw should be introduced, we then have to advertise it for one month. Following this, the council will make the application to the Secretary of State for approval to implement it.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	12 November 2014
Head of service:	Adrian Akester
Report subject:	Making of a skateboarding byelaw
Date assessed:	May 2014
Description:	

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will support the managemnt of disorder in the city centre
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Will support the management of disorder in the city centre

Negative

Neutral

Issues