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## Mayor's improvements to residents parking announced

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Bristol Mayor George Ferguson has asked for significant changes to proposals for a new network of 18 residents' parking schemes for Cabinet on 27th June, following early discussions with councillors and the public.

He is proposing:

- a doubling of free pay and display time to 30 minutes
- a revised permit pricing structure, with reductions in the initial proposed costs for small businesses
- proposals for a new Traders' Permit, that will allow trades-people who need to drive for their work and move freely between zones
- the addition of a new pre-consultation stage in every future proposed zone (ie from Southville onwards), in which residents and businesses will be consulted before the statutory Traffic Regulation Order stage.

This additional consultation will include:

- letters to every resident and business affected; public meetings in each area
- roadshows and exhibitions in libraries, community centres, etc
- online consultation, discussion and information

A public conversation on all the issues has been launched. This will be an opportunity to research, explore and debate the wider issues.

You can take part at [www.AskBristoldebates.com](http://www.AskBristoldebates.com)

Mayor Ferguson said: "These initial adjustments respond to some of the many the ideas for better schemes that I have heard so far. They should take a lot of the issues away at a stroke – particularly regarding trades travel and small business viability. What I want to see now is a clearer process to receive public feedback, and responding to people, which means building in an informal consultation stage."

"It's very encouraging that so much of the feedback I have heard so far has been about how to make schemes work better, and not how to do away with them altogether. In spite of some of the 'noise' that has been generated, from my soundings on the ground I believe that by and large Bristol 'gets it'. I know it's not comfortable for a lot of people, who understandably fear change, but even many of those who would rather not have a scheme, do at least acknowledge that the measure is necessary.

"If what's on the table doesn't work well, we can make adjustments at almost any stage of this process, even in regular reviews when schemes are up and running. So change will be an inherent part of this process. I'm perfectly relaxed about, continuing debate and listening and amending proposals based on what I have heard. "What I will not do is put Bristol's economy, environment and health at risk by taking the scheme off the table. This has to be done to reduce congestion, improve public transport and foster a better quality-of-life in the city."

Councillor Mark Bradshaw, Assistant Mayor for Transport, Planning, Strategic Housing and Regeneration said: "There is genuine flexibility about the schemes which need to be tailored to local needs and circumstances. Equally, citywide issues, such as those raised by business, have been listened to and our search has been for practical, uncomplicated solutions."

Full details will feature in the Cabinet report to be published on 18 June 2013.

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### Media enquiries

For follow up media enquiries on this press release please call the Press Office on **0117 922 2650**.