
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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Date: 9th December 2021

Sarah Crew
Chief Constable
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Sent via email to:
Georgina.Meech@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Dear Chief Constable Crew

Further to my last correspondence in May 2021, with your predecessor Chief Constable Andy Marsh, in relation to the force's request to introduce an Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order in Bath City Centre, I am writing to give you an updated position.

Following approval by Cabinet in July 2021 to proceed with the ATTRO for the inner core of the city centre, the Council duly advertised these Orders, which were subject to a 21-day consultation.

Almost 200 comments were received, with a mixture of support and those objecting or partially objecting to the scheme for a variety of reasons. My officers have continued to work with those persons and/or organisations who have objected to the TRO, including your CTSA's in responding to those objections relating to security risk.

Whilst we have been successful in working with those objectors who would trigger a public inquiry, there remains one objector to the York Street ATTRO, who has upheld their objection and therefore, the Council is legally required to trigger a public inquiry.

Plans for the other roads in the council's city centre security scheme will go ahead and the Traffic Regulation Orders for Anti-Terrorism purposes for:

- Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (south), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street;
- Cheap Street, Westgate Street (including Parsonage Lane), Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls

The Notice of Making will be published in the Bath Chronicle on Thursday 23 December 2021.

By triggering a Public Inquiry, the Council will be appointing Counsel and it is anticipated Counsel will require a statement and representation from the Police, outlining the rationale for the original request for an ATTRO and a robust supportive statement of the need to implement an ATTRO.

Please can you confirm you will be able to support us accordingly?

Whilst writing, I wish to seek your agreement that we proceed with the Outer ATTRO, as detailed in CC Marsh's letter of 21 February 2020. In CC Marsh's letter, he states that ***"whilst the latest amendment to the RTA 1984 waives the requirement to publicise an ATTRO in advance, where in the opinion of the Chief Police Officer, such publicity would undermine the purpose of the order. It is agreed by Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Bath and North East Somerset Council that, in the interests of transparency and accountability there will be no intention to waive the requirement to publicise the ATTRO."***

However, we recognise that further consultation processes focused on the outer ATTRO would potentially be detrimental to the timely implementation of the scheme and the risks to security this would potentially create. Further given the nature of the scheme, in that, it only operates in limited circumstances or on your advice, consultation could be felt to be unnecessary. I would further seek your view on behalf of the Members as to whether we enact the right to waive this requirement, in order for us to move forward as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Godfrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Will Godfrey
Chief Executive
Bath & North East Somerset Council

