

OFFICER DECISION REPORT

ADDRESSED TO: Group Manager - Highways & Traffic
PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team

1

TITLE OF REPORT: Various Roads, Bath
PROPOSAL: 6ft 6in Width Restriction
SCHEME REF No.: 18-010/PB

1. STATEMENT

The delegation to be exercised in this report is contained within **Part 3, Section 4** of the Constitution under the **Delegation of Functions to Officers**, as follows:

Section A	The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Divisional Directors and Heads of Service have delegated power to take any decision falling within their area of responsibility....”
Section B	Without prejudice to the generality of this, Officers are authorised to: serve any notices and make, amend or revoke any orders falling within his/her area of responsibility.
Section D9	An Officer to whom a power, duty or function is delegated may nominate or authorise another Officer to exercise that power, duty or function, provided that Officer reports to or is responsible to the delegator.

For the purpose of this report, in January 2016, the Divisional Director Environmental Services delegated the power to make, amend or revoke any Orders to the Group Manager, Highways and Traffic.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This proposal is made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which under Section 1 provides, generally, for Orders to be made for the following reasons, and in the case of this report specifically for the reason(s) shown with an “x” in the right hand column:

(a)	for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or	X
(b)	for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or	X
(c)	for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or	
(d)	for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property,	X
(e)	(without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or	
(f)	for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs, or	
(g)	for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality)	

3. BACKGROUND

Following reports received from local residents/ resident association, concerns have been raised regarding an increase in tour coaches and general HGVs/ delivery vehicles accessing Lansdown Crescent from Lansdown Road through to Cavendish Road and vice versa as a through route. Lansdown Crescent and Cavendish Road are unsuitable to accommodate such large and long vehicles and the general problem that residents have been experiencing is continual structural damage to the carriageway and near misses to property boundaries where these large vehicles are unable to manoeuvre sufficiently. For these reasons, residents are also apprehensive with regards to safety for both pedestrians and road users who maybe present during the difficulties that these vehicles create. In view of these concerns, residents have requested that the Council review and consider restrictions to prohibit such large vehicles from accessing these roads as a through route.

4. ISSUES

Over a period of time, residents/ residents association have provided photographic evidence showing large vehicles becoming stuck and finding it difficult to continue with their journeys whilst they attempt to travel through these narrow streets. In view of this evidence and continual reports of concerns, it is the Councils intentions to introduce a 6'6" (2.0m) width restriction incorporating the relevant exemptions 'except for access/ except local buses' so as not to affect residents who require deliveries to their properties and due to Cavendish Road being on a bus route to and from the Sion Hill area. The Traffic Management Team originally considered introducing a 7.5T weight restriction and a prohibition of public service vehicles (PSV) however, after further consideration it is felt that such restrictions is not the most appropriate solution for these roads. The proposed width restriction will prohibit coaches and large vehicles that exceed 2m in width from accessing the concerned roads. The introduction of the width restriction will also reduce the size of required entry signing to that of the original 7.5T/ PSV restriction and therefore, minimising the impact on the local environment.

The route has been identified as shown on the attached proposal plan where the proposed restrictions will assist in preventing this area being used as a through route.

5. SOURCE OF FINANCE

This proposal is being funded by a capital drawdown from reserves against project code TCL0002.

6. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT

The proposal requires consultation with the Police, Ward Members and the Cabinet Member for Transport. If the proposal is approved, any Traffic Regulation Order to be made or amended will require Statutory Notification by the Council Solicitor.

7. INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Police:

Comments received from the Police on 6th June and are as follows; As stated in previous correspondence with Bath and North East Somerset Council regarding the introduction/revision of weight or width restrictions, an environmental weight / width restriction such as is proposed, often raises community expectations of enforcement of any contravention and as you have identified, there will be numerous exemptions for legitimate access. It is not possible to dedicate an enforcement presence to such a restriction. The signage and any other physical measure to be introduced to enforce / heighten motorist awareness of the proposed scheme is therefore of importance. Please can you advise where any advance signage of the proposed restriction is to be placed to avoid motorists erroneously entering the restricted area and if physical indications of the width restriction are to be installed? As explained within the report, concerns highlighted are coaches/ large vehicles using this route as a cut through (in particular from North/ Lansdown Road direction). Reminded the Police of the existing weight restrictions in place on Lansdown Road where relevant entry signing has been provided with advanced signing starting on A420 and therefore, as this is a non-primary route into and out of the City it is our intention to erect an advanced direction sign at a suitable location on Lansdown Road for traffic heading inbound only. Once the scheme has been implemented, it will be possible for Engineers to review and monitor the affects the restriction has imposed. Appropriate traffic surveys could be arrange to establish classification and the route traffic travel within this restricted area to consider if any physical restrictive measures may be required.

Ward Members:

Response received from Cllr Anthony Clarke on 4th June stating ‘I support this proposal’ No further comments have been received from other ward members that had been included within this informal consultation.

Cabinet Member:

Response received from Cllr Mark Shelford on 20th June stating that this proposal is ‘Fine’ and therefore, supporting the proposal moving forward.

8. RECOMMENDATION

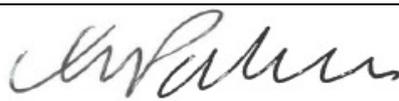
The proposal should be approved and the Council Solicitor be instructed to carry out the statutory notifications to make the Order and, subject to there being no unwithdrawn objections, the Order is to be made.

Signature: 
Paul Garrod
Traffic Management & Network Manager

Report Ref.: **18-010/PB**
Date: 21st May 2018

Author's Name: Peter Bailey Contact No.: 01225 394258
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As the officer holding the above delegation, I approve the progression of this Order.

Signed:		Date:	25/5/2018
Group Manager, Highways and Traffic – Kelvin Packer			

End.

