

# OFFICER DECISION REPORT – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO)

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## INFORMAL CONSULTATION (with the Chief Constable, Ward Members, and Town Council)

PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team, Highways and Traffic Group

<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Market Square (The Island) and High Street, Midsomer Norton.
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	Parking restrictions (new and modified), extension of bus stop, and relocation of existing taxi rank.
<b>SCHEME REF No:</b>	24-001
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Neil Terry

### 1. DELEGATION

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:

<b>Section A</b>	The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Divisional Directors and Heads of Service have delegated power to take any decision falling within their area of responsibility....”
<b>Section B</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.
<b>Section D9</b>	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 purposes of this report, the Director of Place Management holds the delegated power to make, amend or revoke any Orders.*

### 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 below:

(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	
(b)	for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or	
(c)	for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or	X
(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,	
(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	X
(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. **PROPOSAL**

To relocate the existing taxi rank in the High Street, Midsomer Norton, to accommodate an additional bus stop.

To modify the parking restrictions in Market Square (The Island), Midsomer Norton, to reflect the revised layout associated with the upcoming public realm improvements.

The existing arrangements and proposals are shown on the attached drawings.

### 4. **BACKGROUND**

The development of Market Square at The Island in Midsomer Norton will provide almost 1,000 sqm of high-quality public realm, to increase the amount of useable space for civic events and the market.

To create this additional space, the proposals include a realignment of the carriageway, meaning that the existing westbound / inbound bus stop needs to be relocated. It was originally envisaged that the bus stop would simply be moved to the other side of the junction, but this has not proved to be feasible from a visibility and vehicle tracking perspective.

In consultation with public transport operators, it has been identified that westbound / inbound buses on Silver Street could be diverted along South Road, Excelsior Terrace, and the High Street. These buses could then stop in the High Street adjacent to The Hollies, where existing services already stop. This would negate the need for a westbound / inbound bus stop at The Island, and buses could re-join their original route by turning right at the end of the High Street.

However, the existing bus stop at the lower end of the High Street is not long enough to accommodate additional bus services, and there is only one existing bus shelter. It is proposed, therefore, that the existing bus stop will be lengthened, and an additional bus shelter introduced.

To accommodate the longer bus stop, it would be necessary to relocate the existing taxi rank in the High Street. This is currently located in advance of the existing bus stop in the section of the High Street adjacent to The Hollies, between the last road bridge over the River Somer (and pedestrian link to South Road car park) and the traffic signals at the exit from Sainsburys car park.

It is proposed that the taxi rank would be relocated to the existing limited waiting parking bay to the northeast of the last road bridge, which would then become dual use. This bay currently operates Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm, no return within 1 hour. It is proposed that this parking bay would remain available for parking during the day (with unchanged operating hours) but become a taxi rank between 6pm and 8am.

The existing taxi rank is 15m in length, which accommodates 3 taxis. The proposed dual use parking bay / taxi rank is nearer to 20m in length and could accommodate up to 4 vehicles (subject to how well they are parked).

The existing Blue Badge parking bay at the end of the limited waiting parking bay would remain in place and would not form part of the proposed taxi rank.

The proposed parking restrictions in Market Square (The Island) will manage on-street parking and loading activity within the Square, whilst restricting on-street parking in inappropriate locations (by the introduction of double yellow lines and loading restrictions). The proposed limited waiting parking restrictions will also maintain access to the Square for the market on Thursdays, whilst creating a 'turn-over' of parking for shoppers etc. at all other times.

**5. SOURCE OF FINANCE**

The proposals will be capital funded through the public realm improvements project.

**6. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

The proposal requires informal consultation with the Chief Constable, Ward Members, Town Council, and the Cabinet Member for Highways.

PROPOSAL(S) APPROVED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE, WARD MEMBERS and TOWN COUNCIL.



Paul Garrod  
Traffic Management and Network Manager

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024