

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 th JUNE 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	5(A)
TITLE:	PETITION TO REDUCE THE OPERATIONAL TIMES OF THE TOWN CENTRE ACCESS RESTRICTION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
LEAD OFFICER:	CRIS BUTLER	TEL:	0118 937 2068
JOB TITLE:	ASSISTANT NETWORK MANAGER	E-MAIL:	Cris.butler@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee the receipt of a petition asking the Council to reduce the operational times of the current Town Centre access restriction.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the issue is investigated and a future report be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of pedestrian crossing facilities and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition containing 228 signatures has been received asking the Council to reduce the operational times of the Town Centre access restriction (currently applies 7am-11am and 4pm-7pm).

The petition reads - "We, the undersigned urge Reading Borough Council to reduce the hours during which we are unable to drive into Reading Town Centre and park. Denying us access for 7 hours a day, in combination with the difficulties of working out where we can and cannot drive, has caused many disabled people in particular, to do their shopping elsewhere. Reading must have lost a great deal of trade because of this.

We ask that the morning restriction should end at 9.30am and that the afternoon/evening restriction should end at 6.30pm."

- 4.2 The issues raised within this petition are to be fully investigated and a future report is to be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to submitting the update report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.