

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	CYCLING IN BROAD STREET - REVIEW OF RESTRICTIONS		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval from members of the Sub-Committee to progress a statutory consultation on permitting cycling in Broad Street West.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 - Broad Street location plan

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report
- 2.2 That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out a statutory consultation to permit cycling in Broad Street West as shown in Appendix 1 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.3 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.

2.4 That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The provision of movement restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

### 4. THE PROPOSAL

#### Background

4.1 In the early 1990's, Broad Street was initially partially pedestrianised resulting in the introduction of a cycling ban between the West Street/St Marys Butts Junction and Queen Victoria Street.

4.2 When the full length of Broad Street was pedestrianised in 2000, the existing cycle links on Broad Street East were retained to allow access via Cross Street and Queen Victoria Street to the north of the Town Centre. However, the existing moving traffic restrictions in Broad Street West remained, including the cycling ban.

4.3 The prohibition of cycling in Broad Street West is supported by the existing pedestrian zone restrictions at the Queen Victoria Street/Broad Street junction. This part of the pedestrian zone includes a "No Vehicles" restriction and pedal cycles are included within this restriction type.

4.4 Enforcement of the current cycling ban in Broad Street West is the responsibility of the Police. Unfortunately, enforcement action has historically been difficult due to the current layout and inconsistent cycling message.

#### Proposal

4.5 In order to simplify and encourage cycling into and around the town centre, Officers propose a review of the current restriction in Broad Street West with a view to permitting cycling along the full length of Broad Street. This will provide an important link for cyclists heading through the Town Centre, remove the current inconsistent cycling provision in Broad Street and rectify the current enforcement issues.

4.6 Officers therefore recommend completing a Statutory Consultation on this proposal commencing in November 2015 and running until the end of the calendar year. A further report will be submitted to this Sub-Committee in January 2016 with the results of the consultation. If the results are positive, cycling could be permitted along the entire length of Broad Street in the Spring 2016.

4.7 It must be noted that if cycling is permitted along the entire length of Broad Street, there will be no segregation for cyclists and the route would continue as a shared facility for all users.

4.8 Members are therefore asked to note the contents of this report and confirm if the Statutory Consultation can commence on permitting cycling in Broad Street West.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 The delivery of the projects outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

6.1 The proposals will be communicated to the local community through the Statutory Consultation process, Council Meetings and forums.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Any proposals for movement restrictions are advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

## **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 has carried out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The proposals will be funded from existing Transport budgets

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.