

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 JULY 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW PROGRAMME UPDATE		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Waiting Restriction Review programme has been a twice-annual activity that is reported to this Sub-Committee. The purpose of the programme has been to collect and report requests for new, or changes to existing, waiting restrictions on the Highway with the potential for these to be investigated and progressed toward delivery.
- 1.2 Following requests from members to conduct some further investigations earlier in the year, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this report provides Sub-Committee members with a progress update for this programme.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Waiting Restriction Review programme provides an opportunity for requests for new, or changes to existing, waiting restrictions on the Highway to be reported to members, with the potential for these to be investigated and progressed toward delivery.

The programmes have several key stages, some being procedural (and to plan resourcing) and some being statutory.

- 4.2 There have been two Waiting Restriction Review Programmes per year, typically commencing at the Traffic Management Sub-Committee (TMSC) meetings in March (the 'A' programme) and September (the 'B' programme). The typical timeline is as follows:

- a) Request received.
- b) Request added to the list of new requests and reported for the start of the next Waiting Restriction Review Programme (TMSC in March (A) / September (B)). Decision made on whether request should be investigated by Officers.
- c) Officers investigate the issue and make recommendations to Ward Councillors.
- d) Officers report recommended proposals for statutory consultation, including Ward Councillor comments, (TMSC in the following June (A) / January (B)). Decision made on whether proposals should progress to statutory consultation.
- e) Legal documents are prepared and on-street notices created (also advertised in the local newspaper) and erected for the start of the 21 day statutory consultation period, following publication of the agreed TMSC meeting minutes.
- f) Responses to the statutory consultation are reported (TMSC in the following September (A) / March (B)). Decision made on whether proposals should be implemented.
- g) The Legal Order for the parking restrictions is finalised and advertised in the local newspaper, following publication of the publication of the agreed TMSC meeting minutes.
- h) Signs are designed and ordered. Contractors are issued detailed designs and instructions for sign and post installation and lining work.
- i) The Waiting Restriction Review programme is implemented.

- 4.3 Recommendations for the 2019B programme were reported to the Sub-Committee in January 2020 (stage d above). However, members requested amendments to the recommendations, necessitating further Officer investigation and design work and the approval of amended proposals at a future meeting.

At the March 2020 meeting Officers reported the amended recommendations, which members agreed could progress to statutory consultation (stage e above). However, Officers highlighted that the decisions at January's meeting had delayed the 2019B programme development and that this had meant that the 2020A programme did not commence from the March 2020 meeting as intended.

- 4.4 The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic have delayed the ability for the Council to conduct the statutory consultation for the 2019B programme. Officers intend to conduct this consultation over the Summer and report the results to the Sub-Committee in September 2020, where the next programme will also commence - this will essentially be the 2020B programme, with the A programme timelines now having passed. This will bring the programmes back into alignment with the typical stages and timeline in 4.2.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and contributes to the Council's priorities, as set out below:

- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
- Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 6.2 The decisions and recommendations of this report are not expected to have environmental or climate implications.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The programme is created from requests and suggestions for minor changes to Highway waiting restrictions, which have been received by Officers.
- 7.2 Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The creation of - and changes to existing - Traffic Regulation Orders will require advertisement and consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 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.

9.2 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is relevant to the decisions arising from this report, as it is not considered that the decision will have a differential impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Funding for the advertisement requirement of the statutory consultation and subsequent implementation of agreed changes will need to be identified. It is intended that these costs will be met by the Council's Capital Works budget, with external funding (e.g. CIL or Section 106 contributions) to be used wherever possible.

10.2 The cost of the programme will be dependent on a number of factors, including the number proposals that are agreed for statutory consultation, the number agreed for implementation and the extent/complexity of the scheme. Lining-only schemes, such as double-yellow-line restrictions will be considerably less costly to implement, compared with restrictions that require signing.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Bi-Annual Waiting Restriction Review - 2019B Further Proposals for Statutory Consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, March 2020).

11.2 Bi-Annual Waiting Restriction Review - 2019B Proposals for Statutory Consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, January 2020).