

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	16 SEPTEMBER 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	5
TITLE:	WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW - OBJECTIONS TO WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW 2019B& REQUESTS FOR WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW 2020		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Requests for new waiting restrictions across the Borough, or amendments to existing restrictions, are collated and considered for investigation as part of the Waiting Restriction Review Programme. While there are typically two programmes per year, the deferred decisions and extension of the 2019B programme, and the impact of COVID-19 on works programmes, mean that there will only be a single programme commencing in 2020, following the typical 'B' programme reporting timeline.
- 1.2 This report informs the Sub-Committee of objections received during statutory consultation for the agreed proposals that formed the 2019B programme. Members are asked to consider these objections and conclude the outcome of the proposals.
- 1.3 This report also provides the Sub-Committee with the list of new requests, for potential inclusion in the 2020 programme. Members are asked to consider the requests and whether the investigation of these requests and potential development of design proposals, should be resourced as part of this next review programme.
- 1.4 APPENDIX 1 - Objections, support and other comments received during statutory consultation for the 2019B programme.
- 1.5 APPENDIX 2 - New requests for consideration in the 2020A programme.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.**
- 2.2 That objections noted in Appendix 1 are considered and the Sub-Committee agrees to either implement, amend or reject the proposals.**
- 2.3 That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and no public inquiry be held into the proposals.**
- 2.4 That respondents to the statutory consultation be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee accordingly, following publication of the agreed minutes of the meeting.**
- 2.5 That the Sub-Committee considers the requests made for waiting restriction changes in Appendix 2 and agree whether each request should, or should not, be investigated by officers as part of the 2020 review programme.**
- 2.6 That the officer recommendations, following investigation of the new requests, be shared with Ward Councillors, providing opportunity for their comments to be included in the next report to the Sub-Committee.**
- 2.7 That, should funding permit, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee requesting approval to conduct the Statutory Consultation on the recommended schemes for the 2020 programme.**

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 RECOMMENDATIONS

Objections to Traffic Regulation Order - 2019B programme

- 4.1 Approval was given by the Sub-Committee in September 2019 to carry out investigations at various locations, following requests that the Council had received for new or amended waiting restrictions.**
- 4.2 Investigations were carried out and a recommendation for each scheme was shared with ward councillors between 19th November 2019 and 13th December 2019 for their comments.**
- 4.3 A further report went to the Sub-Committee in January 2020 seeking approval for officers to conduct a statutory consultation for these recommended schemes. Following the requests from the Sub-Committee in January 2020, further recommendations were presented in March to the Sub-Committee, which were also approved for consultation.**

The statutory consultation took place between 6th August 2020 and 27th August 2020. The objections, support and other comments received for the proposals are contained in Appendix 1.

4.4 The Sub-committee is asked to consider the objections and other comments received against each scheme. Those proposals that did not receive objections, nor other comments, will be implemented as advertised. The Sub-Committee can make the following decisions:

- Agree with objections - the recommended proposal will be removed from the programme and will not be implemented
- Overrule objections - the recommended proposal will be implemented, as advertised.
- Amend a proposal - an amended proposal will be implemented, provided such proposed modifications do not compromise the legality of the consultation process and resultant Traffic Regulation Order.

Members are asked to note that the implementation of any item in this programme is dependant on agreement being made on the outcome of all, as they are all contained within the same draft Traffic Regulation Order. Any agreement to defer a decision will delay this programme and subsequent Waiting Restriction Review programmes thereafter.

Bi-annual waiting restriction review - 2020

4.5 Appendix 2 provides a list of requests that have been received for potential consideration in the 2020A programme. The Sub-Committee is asked to consider whether each request should, or should not, be considered in this next programme.

4.6 For each request that is agreed for inclusion in this next Waiting Restriction Review programme, Officers will investigate the issue and consider a recommendation. This may be a proposed scheme that would overcome an issue, or a recommendation against developing a scheme, following investigation.

4.7 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the resources required in investigating, designing and potentially (later in the programme) consulting on schemes, when considering a recommendation to include requests in this programme. This resource requirement will impact the availability of resources for other projects and attract additional costs for the Council.

4.8 Officer recommendations will be shared with respective ward Councillors for a suitable period (ideally 4 weeks) prior to reporting deadlines for the Sub-Committee meeting in January 2021 and will be the recommended schemes for the programme. This period provides Councillors with an opportunity to informally consult with residents, consider the recommendations and provide any comments for inclusion in the recommendations report to the Sub-Committee.

4.9 This report will seek approval by the Sub-Committee to conduct statutory consultation on the recommended schemes.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 This proposal 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 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26th February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

6.2 It is not expected that the decisions arising from this report will have any environmental implications.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Persons requesting waiting restrictions are informed that their request will form part of the waiting restriction review programme and are advertised of the timescales of this programme.

7.2 Any 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 Any proposals for waiting restrictions are advertised under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and/or 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 An equality impact assessment scoping exercise will be conducted prior to recommending schemes to progress to statutory consultation or implementation.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 It is intended that these works will be funded from within existing transport budgets. Officers will seek external funding for schemes - from developer contributions, for example - wherever this funding is available.
- 10.2 The cost of the programme will be dependent on a number of factors, including the number proposals that are agreed for investigation, the number progressed to statutory consultation, the number agreed for implementation and the extent/complexity of the schemes. 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 update due to COVID-19 - 2019B Further update for the Statutory Consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - July 2020).
- 11.2 Bi-Annual Waiting Restriction Review - 2019B Further Proposals for the Statutory Consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - March 2020).
- 11.3 Bi-Annual Waiting Restriction Review - 2019B Proposals for the Statutory Consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - January 2020).
- 11.4 Waiting Restriction Review - Objections to the Waiting Restriction Review 2019A & Requests for Waiting Restriction Review 2019B (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - September 2019).