

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 4 MARCH 2021 | | |
| TITLE: | ABBATOIRS ROAD NO RIGHT TURN - RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION | | |
| LEAD COUNCILLOR: | COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE | PORTFOLIO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT |
| SERVICE: | TRANSPORT | WARDS: | ABBEY |
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee gave approval for Officers to undertake a statutory consultation for banned (right turn) movements at the junction of Abattoirs Road and Caversham Road at their meeting in January 2021. Officers carried out the statutory consultation in February 2021.
- 1.2 The need for these movement restrictions is to allow for a new vehicle entrance into Cattle Market car park whilst maintaining safety at the junction.
- 1.3 This report provides the objection that has been received from Thames Valley Police and seeks Sub-Committee approval to implement or otherwise, the scheme as recommended and advertised.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 provides the drawing of the consulted design.
- 1.5 Appendix 2 provides the consultation feedback received by officers.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the content of this report.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee reviews the consultation feedback in Appendix 2, alongside the officer recommendations in this report, and agrees to either implement, remove, or alter elements of the scheme as advertised.
- 2.3 That no public inquiry be held into the proposals.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of traffic management measures including movement restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As reported to the Sub-Committee in January 2021, with the gradual demise of off-street car parking over a number of years within the town centre area and imminent closure of the NCP Garrard Street car park the intention is to make Cattle Market car park more accessible. This entails a proposed vehicle entrance from Caversham Road via Abattoirs Road consequently there is need to manage turning movements at the junction to maintain road safety.
- 4.2 The vehicle access via Abattoirs Road will be entry only and drivers will be required to leave the car park via Great Knollys Street joining the Caversham Road via the traffic signal managed junction which allows all turning movements. Although drivers are required to leave via Great Knollys Street there is still a need to ban the right turn movements at the junction particularly the right turn from Caversham Road into Abattoirs Road.
- 4.3 At the January 2021 meeting of this Sub-Committee, officers reported the designs for the banned movement proposal, which was shared with respective Ward Councillors.
- 4.4 Officers received agreement, to proceed with the necessary legal consultation that was required to enable the proposal to proceed toward delivery.

The statutory consultation process was started on 4th February 2021. Thames Valley Police have provided feedback and have objected to the proposal. Please see Appendix 2 for the full response.

As per the officer response to the objection in Appendix 2, Officers recommend implementing the scheme as advertised.

- 4.5 The Sub-Committee is asked to review the consultation feedback alongside the officer recommendation and agree whether the scheme may be implemented as advertised, or not implemented.

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 significant environmental implications.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Consultation notices were erected on location in accordance with appropriate legislation and details of the proposed scheme were available on the 'Consultation Hub' section of the Council's website.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The creation of Traffic Regulation Orders 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 is relevant as the proposals are not deemed to be discriminatory to persons with protected characteristics. A statutory consultation has been conducted, providing an opportunity for objections/support/concerns to be considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement the proposals.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Funding for the implementation of agreed changes will be delivered as a part of a project to improve Cattle Market car park. These costs will be met by the Council's Capital Works budget using National Productivity Infrastructure Funding as awarded to the Council by National government.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Abattoirs Road junction with Caversham Road - Banned right turn movements (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, January 2021).