

# Traffic Management Sub-Committee

13 June 2024



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title</b>                 | Petition – Reading Hackney Carriage Vehicle Access to A33 Bus Lanes  |
| <b>Purpose of the report</b> | To make a decision   |
| <b>Report status</b>         | Public report  |
| <b>Report author</b>         | James Penman, Network Services Manager, Network Services   |
| <b>Lead councillor</b>       | John Ennis   |
| <b>Corporate priority</b>    | Healthy Environment  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>       | <p>The Sub-Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note the content of this report.</li><li>2. Agree that appropriate officers consider the request and report their recommendations to an appropriate future Committee.</li><li>3. Agree to the lead petitioner being informed of the decisions of the Sub-Committee, following publication of the agreed minutes of the meeting.</li><li>4. Agree that no public inquiry be held into the proposals.</li></ol> |

## 1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report the receipt of a petition requesting that Reading Borough Council licenced hackney carriage vehicles be granted access to use the A33 bus lanes.

The petition contains 231 indications of support.

- 1.2. The report recommends that appropriate officers consider the request in the context of local and national strategic policies and the ongoing South Reading Bus Rapid Transit scheme (funding and delivery) and report recommendations to an appropriate committee meeting.

## 2. Policy context

- 2.1. The recommendations of this report will not directly lead to changes being introduced.
- 2.2. The request needs to be considered in the context of the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP), Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), Climate Emergency Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy by removing barriers to the greater use of sustainable, healthy transport options. It also needs to be considered in the context of the criteria for the funding received and required for the continued delivery of the South Reading Bus Rapid Transit scheme.

### **3. The proposal**

#### Current Position

- 3.1. On 3 June 2024 Reading Borough Council received a petition requesting access to the A33 bus lanes by Reading Borough Council licenced hackney carriage vehicles.

The petition reads:

*We the undersigned are licensed by READING BOROUGH COUNCIL as HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS request that all HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE licensed by READING BOROUGH COUNCIL are given permission to use the A33 BUS LANE We have use of all other bus lanes in Reading apart from A33.  
By allowing Hackney Carriage Vehicle to use this bus lane, will not effect Reading Buses operations*

The petition has 231 indications of support.

- 3.2. For context, Reading Borough Council has undertaken major schemes to install additional traffic lanes along sections of the A33, from south of M4 Junction 11 to north of Rose Kiln Lane. These have been funded and delivered as part of the strategic South Reading Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme and the latest phase of delivery is currently in progress between Rose Kiln Lane (South) and Rose Kiln Lane (North).

These additional traffic lanes are bus only lanes.

- 3.3. Changes to access, if agreed, will require a change to the Traffic Regulation Order that underlays each restriction. These changes would require statutory consultation for the new draft order, advertising of the sealed Order thereafter and changes to the statutory signing. Back-office changes to the enforcement software would be required. Such changes would require funding and resourcing.

#### Options proposed

- 3.4. It is recommended that appropriate officers consider this request in the context of the BRT scheme objectives, the criteria by which funding has been/is expected to be granted (including any risks that such a change could create), and wider local and national strategies. It is recommended that officers report their recommendations to an appropriate committee for decision.

#### Other options considered

- 3.5. None at this time.

### **4. Contribution to strategic aims**

- 4.1. The Council's new Corporate Plan has established three themes for the years 2022/25. These themes are:

- Healthy Environment
- Thriving Communities
- Inclusive Economy

- 4.2. These themes are underpinned by "Our Foundations" explaining the ways we work at the Council:

- People first
- Digital transformation
- Building self-reliance
- Getting the best value
- Collaborating with others

- 4.3. Full details of the Council's Corporate Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [Council's website](#). These priorities and the Corporate Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.
- 4.4. The recommendation of this report does not directly deliver changes. The request needs to be considered in the context of the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP), Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), Climate Emergency Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy by removing barriers to the greater use of sustainable, healthy transport options. It also needs to be considered in the context of the criteria for the funding received and required for the continued delivery of the South Reading Bus Rapid Transit scheme.

## **5. Environmental and climate implications**

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 5.2. The recommendation of this report does not directly deliver changes, so a Climate Impact Assessment has not been considered necessary at this time.

## **6. Community engagement**

- 6.1. The lead petitioner will be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee regarding the request that they have made, following publication of the meeting minutes.
- 6.2. Meeting reports and minutes are published on the Council's website and Traffic Management Sub-Committee is a public meeting that can be attended. Recordings of the meetings are also available via the Council's website ([www.reading.gov.uk](http://www.reading.gov.uk)).

## **7. Equality impact assessment**

- 7.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, 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.
- 7.2. It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant at this time as the report recommendation does not directly lead to any physical change. Assessment will be considered once funding for development and delivery of a scheme is identified.

## **8. Other relevant considerations**

- 8.1. None expected from the recommendations and decisions for this report.

## **9. Legal implications**

- 9.1. There are no foreseen legal implications relating to the recommendation of this report.

## **10. Financial implications**

- 10.1. None arising from the recommendation of this report.

## **11. Timetable for implementation**

- 11.1. Not applicable.

## **12. Background papers**

12.1. There are none.

## **Appendices –**

There are none.