



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

TOPIC – AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PROGRAMME

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

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SUMMARY

- CAB2649(TP) reports the agreed traffic regulation order programme for 2015/2016. It is recommended that the programme be revised to add a further TRO for the reasons set out below.
- A new TRO scheme to install more taxi ranks in this financial year has been requested by the Licensing Team and it is considered that this request is reasonable and should be included in the programme for this year.
- Winchester City Council currently has 127 licensed hackney carriages (taxis). The Council should provide a reasonable amount of rank space for taxi drivers to ply for hire.
- At present, there is approximately the following taxi rank provision:-
 - Silver Hill – 5 spaces
 - Tanner Street – 5 spaces

- Guildhall – 5 spaces
 - King Alfred Statue feeder rank – 6 spaces
 - High Street o/s RBS – 6 spaces
- The City therefore currently provides approximately 27 spaces for daytime use, which equates to 21% of the number of taxis. In addition to these spaces there is also a rank at the railway station which is controlled by South West Trains through a taxi permit scheme.
 - There is no statutory requirement to provide a defined number of spaces but the Council should provide a reasonable amount of taxi rank space for the drivers to ply for hire and to provide a service to customers.
 - With permit parking spaces at a premium in the City Centre, suitable taxi rank locations are difficult to find. A parking bay in Middle Brook Street has been identified as an alternative daytime taxi rank. It is close to the pedestrian crossing that leads to the shopping area. However, with zone N having 0.29 parking spaces to every 'N' permit, more permit parking spaces would need to be created.
 - At this location, it appears feasible that with changes to the road layout, more permit 'N' parking spaces could be created. The daytime taxi rank would become permit 'N' parking in the evening allowing more permit spaces.
 - Changes to the road could enhance the area for all road users. The traffic order would proceed through the normal consultation

DECISION

That a scheme to provide additional taxi rank spaces in Winchester be added to the TRO programme for 2015/2016.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

See summary.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of implementing the traffic regulation orders and associated signs and lining work will be covered by the Traffic Management agreement with Hampshire County Council or through developer contributions.

Physical changes to the proposed road may be funded by an underspend of a previous traffic project and therefore would not defer any existing traffic orders for 2015/16.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The Licensing Team in association with their Portfolio Holder requested that a new taxi rank Traffic Regulation Order be added to the existing programme. All Traffic Regulation Order schemes are subject to representations as they are advertised for 28 days. An informal consultation will take place before the order is advertised.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

n/a

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 15.07.15

Councillor Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing