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Delegated Officer Decision

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 25 November 2021

**Report Title**

Traffic regulation Orders for the proposed 7.5 tonne Environmental weight restriction on various roads in the Kimberworth area.

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

**Report Author(s)**

Name, Simon Quarta, Engineer  
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**Ward(s) Affected**

Keppel  
Rotherham West

**Report Summary**

To reaffirm a previous Officer Decision to authorise the Assistant Director of Legal Services to make and seal the Traffic Regulation Order for the proposed 7.5 tonne Environmental weight restriction on various roads in the Kimberworth area.

**Recommendations**

1. To approve the Traffic Regulation Orders for the 7.5 tonne Environmental weight restriction on various roads in the Kimberworth area, as shown on drawing No 126/47/TT23, following the outcome of recent consultations where no objections were received, and for the orders to be made

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Drawing No 126/47/TT23

Appendix 2 Initial Equalities Screening

Appendix 3 Carbon impact assessment

**Background Papers**

<http://modgov-p-db/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1237>

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Traffic regulation Order for the proposed 7.5 tonne Environmental weight restriction on various roads in the Kimberworth area.**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport previously considered proposals to implement 7.5 tonne environmental weight restriction on various roads in the Kimberworth area as shown on drawing No 126/47/TT23 attached as Appendix 1.

He recommended that:

1. The usual statutory consultations to be undertaken;
2. The Assistant Director of Legal Services to prepare the draft order and notices;
3. The proposals to be advertised;
4. The order to be made subject to there being no objections received.

<http://modgov-p-db/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1237>

- 1.2 The proposal was advertised were advertised on street, in the local newspaper and on the Council's website as well letter to affected Wortley Road residents. No objections were received.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Maintenance of the free and safe flow of traffic on the highway network, and the need to introduce measures to bring concentrations of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) to within legal limits.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The implementation of a 7.5t environmental weight restriction on the A629 Wortley Road should achieve a reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> levels and avoid the need to implement more severe restrictions. This could include charges for vehicles which don't meet current emission standards which could impact economic activity in the Rotherham area.
- 3.2 A less onerous 18 tonne gross vehicle weight restriction was considered and whilst this may be enough to achieve compliance with air quality standards in theory, in practice limitations of the transport model mean it is not possible to determine this with a high degree of confidence. Moreover, existing restrictions in the area are at the 7.5t level and in the interests of easing road user understanding it is considered advantageous to take a consistent approach.
- 3.3 Introduction of a width restriction of 6'-6" (2.0m) was considered. This would prohibit use by heavy goods vehicles and would authorise the use of physical obstructions to prevent access to large vehicles, so addressing the concerns

of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) in respect of enforcement burden. However, this would also prohibit buses, which would have to be rerouted as it is not physically possible to provide a bus with the means of by-passing the width restriction. The likely disruption to bus services and passengers of this, and the potential for disruption to bus services to result in mode shift to car contrary to air quality objectives and is therefore considered unacceptable.

3.4 It is proposed to implement the proposals shown on drawing No 126/47/TT23 to:-

- Introduce a 7.5t environmental weight restriction (except for access to off street premises) for a short length of the A629 Wortley Road on the westbound carriageway
- Introduce a 7.5t environmental weight restriction continuing from the previous restriction on the west bound carriageway to the junction with Bradgate Lane
- Introduce a 7.5t environmental weight restriction (except for loading) on Droppingwell Road, Kimberworth Road, and some adjacent roads.
- Amend an existing 7.5t environmental weight restriction on Claremont Street, Upper Clara Street, Psalters Lane, Regent Street, Cross Street and Meadowhall Road by changing the current exemption “except for access” to “except for loading”.

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 The South Yorkshire Police have been consulted but did not support the proposals due to concerns about enforcement. However historical studies undertaken by the Institute for Transport Studies at Leeds, suggest that compliance of between 70 and 85% can be expected without enforcement, and that this would comfortably satisfy the clean air requirements. Furthermore we will monitor the restrictions and attempt to contact operators who are seen to abuse the restriction.

4.2 The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, and the Councillor Members for the Wards; Keppel and Rotherham West have been consulted and raised no concerns about the proposals.

4.3 The proposals were advertised on street, in the local newspaper on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021. An online consultation was undertaken on the Council’s website. No objections were received.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 If the recommendations are endorsed, the Head of Legal services will be instructed to make and seal the Traffic Regulation Orders.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**

6.1 The amendments to traffic regulation orders and traffic signs affected by the changes referred to in this report will be funded using clean air zone funding. The cost of this will be in the region of £30,000.

**7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)**

7.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows the Council to make and vary Traffic Regulation Orders to regulate the movement of vehicular traffic, restrict or prohibit certain classes of vehicle and to improve the amenities of an area.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 None

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 Air quality improvements will benefit children and young people and vulnerable adults who live adjacent to the restricted roads.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 None

**11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 The proposals will have a negligible impact on CO2 emissions

**12. Implications for Partners**

12.1. None

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 None

**14. Accountable Officers**

Simon Quarta, Engineer

Andrew Moss, Interim Head of Transport Infrastructure Service

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Graham Saxton	07/05/21

Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Stuart Fletcher	10/05/21
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