

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – CLLR R TONGE

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PLANNING

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REFERENCE: HT- 014-11

A303 EMERGENCY DIVERSION ROUTES

Purpose of Report

1. To consider objectives to an amendment to a Traffic Order and to recommend the making of the Order as advertised.

Background

2. A report (ETED-001-09) was approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Economic Development, agreeing to the amendment of the current 18T weight restriction on the B390 through Chitterne to enable vehicles over 14 feet to use the route when emergency closures of the A303 between Wylve and Longbarrow occur.
3. This amendment is considered necessary as vehicles over 14 feet cannot traverse the railway bridge on the A36 at Wilton.

Main Considerations for the Council

4. As a result of the public advertisement of the amendment, a total of 13 responses have been received. These need to be considered and a decision made on whether the Traffic Regulation Order should be implemented as advertised.
5. These letters of representation are summarised in **Appendix 1**, together with officer comments on the points raised.
6. The report (ETED-001-09) detailed the background to the proposal and is attached at **Appendix 2** for ease of reference.
7. The comments in **Appendix 1** on the representation received, together with the reasons stated in the original report, and the limited number of vehicles, and the frequency it is likely to be implemented, indicate it is considered appropriate for the Order to be implemented as advertised.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

8. The impact will be a greater number of vehicles over 14 feet on the B390 during the closures but the number of these high vehicles is relatively small.
9. The benefit will be that these high vehicles will not use the minor Class 3 roads that are more unsuitable.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

10. There are none as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment

11. The signing of a separate directional diversion route for high vehicles would mean that the local highway network could cope more effectively with the diverted high vehicles, resulting from a closure of the A303.

Financial Implications

12. The full costs of the signing of the diversion route and the amendment to the Traffic Order will be borne by the Highways Agency.

Legal Implications

13. There are none as a result of this report.

Options Considered

14. The following options have been considered:

- (i) Not to agree to the implementation of the Traffic Order for the diversion of high vehicles between the A36 and the A360.
- (ii) To agree to the implementation of the Traffic Order to enable the separate diversion route for high vehicles to be signed.

Reason for Proposal

15. To enable the effective management of diverted high vehicles from the A303 in an emergency situation.

Proposal

16. That the Traffic Order be implemented as advertised at a date to be agreed with the Highways Agency allowing for the signing of the B390 as a diversion route for high vehicles, when the emergency closures of the A303 between Wyllye and Longbarrow are in operation.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None