

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

OFFICER CONTACT: Peter Harris (713285) email peterharris@wiltshire.gov.uk

REFERENCE: ETED-001-09

A303 – EMERGENCY DIVERSION ROUTES

Purpose of Report

To agree, following discussions with the Highways Agency, a route to be signed as a diversion route on county roads for high vehicles when the A303 is closed between A36 and A360.

Consultation

Details of the proposed diversion route were given to the local Members and the Parish Councils affected. No objections have been received. The Road Policing Service support the diversion route amendments.

Options Considered

- Not to agree to the signing of the separate diversion route for high vehicles between A36 and A360.
- Agree to the signing of a separate diversion route for high vehicles and the necessary amendment to the Traffic Order.

Reason for Decision

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

DECISION MADE

I approve that the signing of the B390 as a diversion route for high vehicles traffic, with the necessary amendment to the current Traffic Order, be introduced.

This decision was published on 14th January, 2009 and will come into force
On 22nd January, 2009.

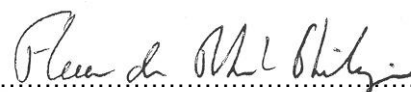
The following supporting documents are attached:

None.

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

Correspondence with the Parish Councils.

Date13th January 2009.....



Miss M.F. de Rhé-Philippe
Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and
Economic Development

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Purpose of Report

1. To agree, following discussions with the Highways Agency, a route to be signed as a diversion route on county roads for high vehicles when the A303 is closed between A36 and A360.

Background

2. The current route used as a diversion route when the A303 is closed in an emergency between its junctions with the A36 at Wylde and A360 at Longbarrow is via the A36, Wilton and A360. There is a low railway bridge on this route which precludes vehicles over 14 feet using the signed route.

Main Considerations for the Council

3. To avoid the high vehicles, that cannot pass under the bridge, using unsuitable minor roads, it is proposed that they be signed via the A36 north to Knook and via the B390 through Chitterne to the A360 to rejoin the A303 at Longbarrow (and vice versa).
4. Currently there is an 18T environmental weight restriction on the B390 from Knook to the A360 at Shrewton. It would require an amendment to this Order to permit the route to be used during these emergency closures by vehicles over 14 feet. The route is the only practical route that can be signed in an emergency. This is fully supported by the Road Policing Service. The Parish Councils along the route have been consulted and no objections have been received.
5. The Highways Agency advise that these closures only occur on average about twice a year.
6. It has been made clear to the Highways Agency that this route would not be acceptable for planned diversions for maintenance purposes but only in cases of emergencies. The diversion for planned closures is much further afield and it is not practical for this to be implemented quickly in an emergency situation.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

7. 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.
8. The benefit will be that these high vehicles will not use the minor Class 3 roads that are more unsuitable.

Risk Assessment

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

Financial Implications

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

Options Considered

11. The following options have been considered:
 - Not to agree to the signing of separate diversion route for high vehicles between A36 and A360.
 - Agree to the signing of a separate diversion route for high vehicles and the necessary amendment to the Traffic Order.

Reason for Proposal

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

Proposal

13. That the signing of the B390 as a diversion route for high vehicles traffic, with the necessary amendment to the current Traffic Order, be introduced.

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

Correspondence with the Parish Councils.