



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(SPELTHORNE)**

**B377 FELTHAM ROAD AND
C233 CHERTSEY ROAD, ASHFORD
PROPOSED 7.5 TONNES WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

30 JUNE 2008

KEY ISSUE & SUMMARY

To consider the introduction of 7.5 tonnes weight restrictions on B377 Feltham Road and C233 Chertsey Road, Ashford.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to agree that:

- (i) the proposed 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on B377 Feltham Road, Ashford between B3003 Clockhouse Lane and the county boundary is advertised by public notice;
- (ii) the proposed 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on C233 Chertsey Road, Ashford is advertised by public notice;
- (iii) subject to no objection being received these restrictions are implemented;
- (iv) if an objection to either proposal is received before the end of the objection period, it is determined by the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman and the Local Electoral Division Member; and
- (v) the implementation of the proposal is funded from the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Local Allocation budgets.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The B377 Feltham Road, Ashford links Ashford with Feltham in the London Borough of Hounslow. Immediately inside the Hounslow border on the B377 lies an industrial estate accessed via Challenge Road which generates substantial heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements. The boundary of the recently introduced Low Emission Zone (LEZ) generally follows the boundary between Surrey and Hounslow but to the north-east of Challenge Road in Hounslow it runs along the north side of the B377 Ashford Road and the east side of the A244 Chertsey Road.
- 1.2 As a result of increased HGV movements along Feltham Road by vehicles rerouting to avoid the LEZ a petition signed by 268 residents was presented to the Local Committee at their meeting on 17 March 2008 requesting that a weight restriction is introduced on Feltham Road. Since the petition was received two further enquiries have been received regarding the use of Feltham Road by HGVs.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The use of the industrial estate accessed via Challenge Road by HGVs appears to be increasing, a fact highlighted by a recent advertisement by the Traffic Commissioner requesting representations on an application to increase the number of HGV movements permitted on an existing Vehicle Operator's Licence. This application has since been withdrawn following representations made by Councillors and local residents.
- 2.2 Transport for London has installed signing at the junction between B377 Ashford Road and A244 Chertsey Road advising drivers that if they wish to avoid the LEZ, they should proceed along the B377 Ashford Road into Ashford.
- 2.3 Residents on Feltham Road are concerned that their properties are suffering from vibration as a result of the existing HGV movements.
- 2.4 The introduction of a southbound weight restriction on Clockhouse Lane as agreed by the Committee at their meeting on 12 March 2007, subject to there being no unresolved objections, will complement the existing weight restrictions in Ashford. It would still be possible to access Feltham Road from within Surrey via School Road but the proposed restriction would make this movement illegal except for loading and unloading along the restricted length of Feltham Road.
- 2.5 During the three year period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007 there were 13 personal injury collisions on Feltham Road but none involved a HGV.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 If the weight restriction in Feltham Road is introduced, those drivers wishing to access Feltham from the A308 Staines Bypass and Staines Road West may reroute along the C233 Chertsey Road between the A308 and A244 Cadbury Road. The introduction of a weight restriction on this length of Chertsey Road would encourage HGV drivers to use the more suitable A308 Staines Road West/A244 Cadbury Road route.
- 3.2 Some residents have suggested that a weight restriction should be introduced along School Road. However if this was implemented it would mean that additional southbound HGV movements through Ashford town centre would be permitted if these vehicles were accessing properties in School Road.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 An officer from the London Borough of Hounslow has stated that a report will be presented to their West Area Committee in July seeking a Member response to the proposals in this report.
- 4.2 An officer from Surrey Police has stated that he has no objection to the introduction of a weight limit on either B377 Feltham Road or C233 Chertsey Road.
- 4.3 Following the formal consultation, any objection to the order would be determined by the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman and the Electoral Division Member.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated total cost to design and implement the 7.5 tonnes weight restrictions on both Feltham Road and Chertsey Road is £25,000. This would include funding the advertising and the making of the Traffic Regulation Order together with the local and advance signing of the restrictions that would be required to ensure the restrictions are enforceable.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the design and legal work is carried out during the current financial year and the implementation in 2009/10 as reported elsewhere to this Committee.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The increased use of Feltham Road by heavy goods vehicles is of concern to local residents and increases the possibility of HGV drivers passing through Ashford town centre on roads already subject to a weight restriction. It is therefore recommended that a 7.5 tonnes weight restriction in Feltham Road is introduced which would help prevent access to Ashford from the county boundary. As a consequence of the possible rerouting of HGVs, it is also recommended that a similar weight restriction is introduced on C233 Chertsey Road.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The weight restrictions would reduce the number of HGVs in Feltham Road and Ashford town centre.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 The Traffic Regulation Order would be advertised by public notice and all necessary consultations carried out.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: