

Item 27

Heavy Goods Vehicles Weight Restrictions

Surrey County Council's Local Committee (Surrey Heath)

26th July 2007

KEY ISSUE

This report recommends the advertising and introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order that is required by a change in Legislation.

SUMMARY

A change in Legislation requires Highway Authorities to change all existing 17 Tonnes weight restrictions to 18 Tonnes. The existing Traffic Regulation Orders therefore need to be changed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is asked to

- (i) Agree the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 1, Part III of Schedule 9 and Part IV of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to change the existing 17 Tonnes weight restrictions Orders listed in annexe A to 18 Tonnes be advertised and that if no objections be maintained, the Order be made
- (ii) Agree that the consideration and resolution of any representations received as a result of advertising the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be delegated to the Highways Group Manager (West).

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Central Government introduced the current edition of The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSR&GD) in 2002. This Statutory Instrument governs what traffic signs and carriageway markings may be used on the Public Highway.
2. One of the changes within the above Regulations was to support the legislation that was brought about by a previous Statutory Instrument in 1998 (The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998) that was necessitated by a European Parliament Directive.
3. In essence traffic signing and therefore Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) that had previously imposed a weight limit restriction of 17 Tonnes were to be increased to 18 Tonnes
4. Highway Authorities were given until 1 January 2007 to change any Traffic Regulation Orders and their associated signing.

5. In order to make this process easier the Department of Transport were to introduce an amended procedure to change the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders.

EXISTING SITUATION

6. The Department of Transport have now informed us that this simplified procedure has not been introduced due to the high volume of work undertaken by them on the new Traffic Management Bill.
7. The County Council still has a duty to comply with the required changes and will have to use the existing legal procedure of revoking current Traffic Regulation Orders and introducing new ones with the new weight limit.
8. Instead of introducing separate Orders it is proposed to introduce one Order, which will make the process easier, and more importantly make the necessary advertising cheaper.
9. The details of the affected TRO's and their associated bridges and roads are shown in Annexe A. In Surrey Heath the only affected area is Chobham High Street.
10. A full survey of the existing traffic signing has been undertaken and the changes required designed.

COUNTY LORRY ROUTEING STRATEGY

11. A lorry routeing strategy for the County is currently being developed. The strategy will be represented in a digital format on the website and reinforced by signing on the preferred routes. This project cannot be completed until the weight restriction revisions are implemented.
12. Many objectors at the 2005 Public Inquiry for Walton Bridge raised concerns over the effectiveness of Surrey County Council's management of Freight traffic. Following the Inquiry the Inspector reported that although Surrey's approach to this issue was sound very little progress had been made. Many of the sites listed in Annex A of this report are in the north west of Surrey and will have some impact on route choice in through the area served by Walton bridge.
13. It is essential that these issues are resolved in advance of a possible new public Inquiry into the redesigned bridge scheme, which is expected to place during 2007/2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The estimated cost of amending the Traffic Regulation Orders is £2,500. The changes to the traffic signing is estimated to be £10,000. Funding is included within the Surrey Lorry Routing and Freight Quality Partnership budget (Capital).

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

15. There will be no change as in effect the 'new' prohibitions either allow or prohibit the same heavy goods vehicles

Report by: Local Highways Manager

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Terry Caddle
Senior Principal Traffic Engineer

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0208 5417353

ANNEX A

Existing Traffic Regulation Order	Borough	Roads affected	Estimated signing costs
The Borough of Surrey Heath (High Street Chobham) Weight Restriction Order 1989	Surrey Heath	Chobham High Street	£1400
Borough Council of Woking (Various Roads in Sheerwater) (Weight Restriction) Order 1992	Woking	Albert Drive, Bentham Avenue, Blackmore Crescent, Bunyard Drive, Dartmouth Avenue, Devonshire Avenue, Falcon Court, Hanbury Path, Henslow Way, Heron Walk, Kingfisher Court, Lambourne Crescent, Lockwood Path, Loder Close, Merlin Court, Perrin Court, Rainbow Court, Stgg. Michaels Road, Spencer Close. Wakehurst Path	Nil (already done)
Borough Council of Woking (Oriental Road, Woking) (Weight Restriction) Order 1996	Woking	Oriental Road	£1400
Surrey County Council, Farnham – Milford Road (B3001), Elstead (Weight Restriction) Order 1992	Waverley	Farnham – Milford Road	£1300
The County Council of Surrey (Newark Mill Bridge (B367) Newark Lane Pyrford) (Weight Restriction) Order 1988	Guildford	Newark Lane, Pyrford	£1800
The County Council of Ash (White Lane Ash) (Weight Restriction) Order 1990	Guildford	White Lane Ash	£1800
(Coming from COUNTY HALL)	Runnymede	Chertsey Bridge	£2300