



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

**HIGH STREET, WOKING – RE-DRAFT OF TRAFFIC ORDER FOR
PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES**

29 JUNE 2011

KEY ISSUE:

To consider the re-drafting of the Traffic Order that allows only certain classes of vehicles from travelling Westbound along the length High Street, Woking that is now spanned by the Albion Square canopy.

SUMMARY:

There have been concerns about the number of vehicles that are disregarding the prohibition that is intended to allow only buses, taxis and cycles to travel Westbound along part of High Street, Woking. The Traffic Regulation Order governing this requires amending in order for Surrey Police to undertake robust enforcement of the prohibition.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to:

- i. Approve the advertising of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order;
- ii. Agree that any objections should be considered and resolved by the Area Team Manager for the North West area in consultation with the Divisional Member and Chairman in accordance with the Council's constitution.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 1996, Woking Borough Council, acting as Agent to the Highway Authority, Surrey County Council, made a Traffic Regulation Order, the intention of which was to allow only buses, taxis, private hire vehicles and cycles to travel in a Westbound direction along High Street, Woking, between Chapel Street and Chertsey Road. All classes of vehicles were to be permitted to travel Eastbound.
- 1.2 At the July 2010 meeting of the Local Committee, the Divisional Member for Woking South asked what, if any, restrictions were in place along the length of High Street that runs under the Albion Square Canopy (the Traffic Order pre-dates the canopy by 10 years or so).
- 1.3 Upon investigation, it was found that the Traffic Order did not contain definitions that are now good practice to include. In particular, the lack of a definition of private hire vehicles means that their inclusion in the classes of permitted Westbound traffic cannot be signed.
- 1.4 Until the Traffic Order can be remade with the necessary definitions etc., Surrey Police have decided not to undertake further enforcement.

2 ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

- 2.1 During discussions with Members, Surrey Police and Woking Borough Council colleagues, officers asked if the Traffic Order was actually required. Although the traffic signals at the end of Cawsey Way appear to adequately deal with the additional traffic that is illegally passing along High Street, the view was that the prohibition should remain.
- 2.2 In order to retain the prohibition, the only available course of action is to re-draft the Traffic Order to include the necessary definitions and written in such a way as to permit private hire vehicles to be permitted and signed. The existing signage does not require amendment.
- 2.3 The opportunity may also be taken to re-word the Order so that when Surrey Police close Chertsey Road for public order reasons (report to Local Committee on 6 April 2005 and Traffic Order made in December 2005), traffic can be directed along the High Street, as it is impractical for traffic to turn around to proceed back along The Broadway.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Re-drafting and advertising the Traffic Order should cost in the region of £1500. This could be funded from the 2011/12 LTP budget.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Surrey Police have been included in previous discussions about this issue and are keen for the Order to be re-made to allow enforcement to take place.

5 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no sustainable development implications.

6 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Re-making the Traffic Order will allow Surrey Police to re-commence enforcement of the prohibition, which has been disregarded by many motorists for some time.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality implications.

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The existing Traffic Regulation Order permitting only certain classes of vehicles from proceeding Westbound along the High Street, between Chertsey Road and Chapel Street, contains some drafting omissions.
- 8.2 These omissions affect the ability to sign the fact that private hire vehicles are permitted to travel Westbound. The only course of action is to re-draft the Traffic Order and until that is done, Surrey Police have decided not to undertake any further enforcement.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Re-making the Traffic Regulation Order will allow Surrey Police to re-commence enforcement of a long-standing prohibition. Local Committee approval is required to commence the re-drafting and advertising process.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Subject to Committee approval, the Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised as soon as possible and any objections that are received will be resolved in accordance with the Council's constitution. The Traffic Order can then be made. No further actions are required.

LEAD OFFICER:	Kevin Patching, Engineer – Surrey Highways
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	03456 009009
E-MAIL:	wah@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER:	Kevin Patching, Engineer – Surrey Highways
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	03456 009009
E-MAIL:	wah@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	

Version No.2 Date: 08/06/2011 Time:0800 Initials: KP No of annexes: 0