



## WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020  
**LEAD OFFICER:** LOUISA CALAM, PROJECT MANAGER TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT:** PROPOSED PEDESTRIANISATION OF CHOBHAM ROAD AND COMMERCIAL WAY FROM THE JUNCTION WITH CHERTSEY ROAD TO THE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ZONE IN COMMERCIAL WAY

**AREA:** CANALSIDE (WOKING TOWN CENTRE)

### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The purpose of this report is to detail the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which needs to be made to facilitate the delivery of the pedestrianisation of Chobham Road and Commercial Way between Chertsey Road and the existing pedestrian zone in Commercial Way.

The TRO is sought to enable improved pedestrian facilities and access to the town centre as well as the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

This TRO has delegated authority for approval (to include advertising and considering any objections) as follows:

The Woking Borough Council Director of Neighbourhood Services, Geoff McManus, has delegated authority as set out in number 50(iii) on page 114 of the Council's Constitution, May 2016 (the related paper is attached). TROs are made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, so this delegation would apply in this case.

The Joint Committee is therefore asked to note this TRO for information.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **Woking Joint Committee is asked to note that:**

- (i) A permanent Traffic Regulation Order will be pursued for the creation of a pedestrian zone within Chobham Road and Commercial Way, between the junction with Chertsey Road and the existing pedestrian zone in Commercial Way.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The pedestrianisation of this section of Chobham Road and Commercial Way is sought to enable improved pedestrian access to the town centre as well as the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is the legal instrument by which Highway Authorities implement most traffic management controls on their roads under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.
- 1.2 The proposal is to introduce a TRO which creates an at-all-times pedestrian zone within Chobham Road and Commercial from the junction with Chertsey Road through to the existing pedestrian zone in Commercial Way. Access to authorised vehicles would be controlled from Christchurch Way by means of rising bollards and a key pad / intercom system linked to the town centre car park office.
- 1.3 Authorised vehicles would include, service vehicles, those from developments which have off-street parking accessed from the affected roads, and disabled drivers (blue badge holders).
- 1.4 This section of Commercial Way and the short section of Chobham Road which connects it to Chertsey Road has been subject to vehicular access restrictions since August 1994. This current restrictions prohibit access by motor vehicle between 10:30am and 4:00pm Monday to Saturday, enforced by automatic barriers. However, we understand in recent years the barriers have remained in the lowered position and the restrictions have not been enforced.
- 1.5 It is not proposed to change the restrictions imposed on Commercial Way within the existing pedestrian zone to the west of the footpath access to Church Street East.
- 1.6 Amendments to the TRO for approval (to include advertising and considering any objections) have delegated authority by Woking Borough Council (WBC) Director of Neighbourhood Services, through WBC's Constitution, May 2016. The documents detailing these approvals are attached.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Woking Town Centre is going through a period of major transformation. The Borough Council has made a substantial investment in improvements to public realm. The Woking Integrated Transport Package is to deliver further improvements to the transport infrastructure and public realm for the town centre, which seek to secure the long term vitality of the local economy.
- 2.2 The section of Commercial Way between the existing pedestrian zone and Chobham Road experiences a number of unnecessary drop-off and pick-up vehicle trips

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throughout the day, often resulting in double parking and multi-point turns at the small turning head adjacent to the footpath from Church Street East.

- 2.3 The pedestrianisation of these sections of Chobham Road and Commercial Way have been proposed in order to remove unnecessary vehicle movements from the area. This would improve pedestrian safety by creating a near traffic free route between the town centre and Chertsey Road, allowing the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 No variations of the proposals, or further options have been put forward for consideration.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 The Borough Council has informed the relevant Councillors of the proposals.
- 4.2 Surrey Police have been consulted on the proposals and did not raise any objection.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The costs of amending the TRO's will be borne by the Woking Integrated Transport Package funds which is comprised of developer funding from the Victoria Square development and Enterprise M3 funding.

### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT:**

- 6.1 It is possible that objections to the TRO will be raised and it may be necessary to find solutions through negotiation.

### **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 The proposals will bring positive benefits to the local area.

### **8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 8.1 There are currently 8 disabled parking spaces within the proposed pedestrian zone, 2 in Chobham Road and 6 in Commercial Way.
- 8.2 The proposed pedestrianisation will require those disabled parking spaces in Chobham Road to be removed to allow for the access control barrier system. This will result in a reduction of disabled parking of 2 spaces.

**9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	The scheme will improve the safety for users of the town centre by reducing vehicle flows.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

**10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 10.1 The introduction of a pedestrianisation of Chobham Road from the junction with Chertsey Road through to the existing pedestrian zone in Commercial Way, will:
- Remove unnecessary vehicle movements and inconsiderate parking from Commercial Way;
  - Improve pedestrian safety with the provision of a near traffic free route between the town centre and Chertsey Road; and
  - allow the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.
- 10.2 On this basis, it is recommended that the TRO for proposed pedestrianisation be noted and taken to advertisement stage. The implementation of this TRO will allow the objectives of the Woking Integrated Transport Package to provide safe, high quality public realm with improved transport access to the town centre to be met.

**11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 11.1 Following this Committee, the proposed TRO would be advertised and public notices displayed in the press and on site.
- 11.2 Any objections to the TRO will be reviewed by the WBC Director of Neighbourhood Services.
- 11.3 If there are no irresolvable objections, the order will be made and all necessary signage and access controls will be installed.
- 11.4 If there are irresolvable objections, a Public Inquiry would need to be held (this is a statutory requirement due to the nature of the proposed TRO).

**Contact Officer:** Louisa Calam,  
Project Manager Town Centre Development

**Consulted:**

Graham Cannon (Surrey Police)  
Paula Hartwell (Woking Fire Station)  
Andrew Milne (Surrey County Council, Area Highway Manager)  
Kevin Patching (Surrey County Council, Area Engineer)

**County and Borough Councillors**

**Annexes:**

WBC Delegated authority papers  
Drawing - Woking Borough Council Pedestrianisation Plan

**Sources/background papers:**

None

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