

LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)**DATE:** 21 July 2021**LEAD OFFICER:** Alison Houghton, Senior Transport Officer**SUBJECT:** ALTERATION TO THE OPERATIONAL HOURS OF A BUS STAND CLEARWAY – EPSOM STATION**DIVISION:** Epsom Town & Downs**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The hours of operation of the local bus services E9 and E10 bus routes are being extended on 28th August 2021.

These bus services previously operated between 6.00am – 8.10pm (Monday to Saturday) but they will now operate in the evenings until 11.20pm (Monday to Saturday), and will also now operate on Sundays from 9.30am to 6pm.

The bus routes serve:

E9 - (Epsom Station/Longmead /Parkview/Clarendon Park/Livingston Park/Manor Park/Epsom Station)

E10 - (Epsom Station/Noble Park/Epsom Station)

Bus routes E9 and E10 use the bus stand (which is also used as a bus stop) at Stop N on Station Approach, outside Epsom Station. The existing clearway was given approval by Epsom & Ewell Local Committee in September 2016. An extension of the hours of operation of the clearway is required to be “at any time” (i.e. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) to ensure that buses can access the bus stop waiting area/bus stand. The current hours that the clearway is enforceable are 6am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to agree that

- (i) the operating hours of the bus stand clearway at bus stop N, Station Approach, Epsom are enforceable for 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday, subject to 28-day consultation period.
- (ii) if any objections cannot be resolved, the Area Highway Manager, in consultation with the chair/vice chair of this committee and the county councillor for the division, decides whether or not they should be acceded to and therefore whether the proposed change should be made, with or without modifications

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Epsom & Ewell Local Committee agree to the bus stand clearway at bus stop N, Station Approach, Epsom operating 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday to ensure that the bus can access the bus stand and wait between

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journeys at this stand without the obstruction of parked vehicles, and provide step-free access to those wishing to use the bus stop and thus support the extended operating hours of the E9 & E10 bus routes.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 In September 2016 the clearway for the bus stand at stop N on Station Approach, Epsom was approved. This is an enforceable bus stand clearway between the hours of 6.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Saturday, to allow the buses to access the bus stop area without the obstruction for parked vehicles between these hours, and for the bus to dwell at this location between the end of one journey and the start of the next.
- 1.2 A clearway at a bus stand enables the bus to wait between the start and end of its journey and to pull in parallel to the kerb so as not to block the carriageway. It prevents vehicles parking at obstructing the bus stand. This bus stand is also a bus stop and the clearway also allows buses to safely serve the bus stop and pull up parallel to the kerb to allow step-free access onto/off the bus.
- 1.3 The bus stand clearway is enforceable to enable the bus to stand at Stop N, and to serve the stop at the start of the journey during operational hours. Currently the hours of operation of the E9 and E10 bus routes are between 6.20am to 8.10pm. Outside of these enforceable hours the clearway is currently used for vehicles for customers visiting the Tesco Express store, for setting down passengers at the station and can be used by other vehicles to wait or to park.
- 1.4 The hours of operation of the E9 and E10 bus services are being increased from 28th August 2021. They will now operate in the evenings until 11.20pm (Monday to Saturday), and on Sundays from 9.30am to 6pm. With the benefit of the increased hours of operation of the bus service it is required that the enforceable hours of the bus stand clearway are increased to allow the buses to start and end their journeys at Station Approach, and pull in parallel to the kerb to allow passengers on and off the bus, without hindrance of parked vehicles at the bus stand/stop.
- 1.5 Bus stand clearways enable Borough enforcement officers to enforce the parking restrictions and if necessary, to issue penalty charge notices on offending vehicles thereby discouraging inconsiderate parking and allowing the bus to access the stand during operating hours.
- 1.6 Regulations in the last few years have sought to make public transport accessible to all and to achieve an all-inclusive transport network (Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR), The Inclusive Transport Strategy 2018) and in March 2021, the government published Bus Back Better; a national bus strategy which sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England and to improve equality of opportunity, particular for older and disabled people.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 During bus review consultations held in recent years concerns were raised by residents over inadequate evening and Sunday bus services, particularly in respect to increased Sunday retail and leisure opportunities. The E9 and E10 have previously not offered a Sunday service or Monday to Saturday evening services.

- 2.2 In 2020, Surrey County Council was successful in obtaining additional bus funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to restore lost services and support new or extensions/enhancements to existing services providing enhanced travel opportunities for residents. The funding objective was to increase bus mileage and grow passenger numbers. The opportunity to grow these services will benefit a number of communities and offer residents' additional travel opportunities.
- 2.3 The E9 and E10 services will see enhancements during evenings to operate until 11.20pm on Monday to Saturday, extended from the current finish time of 8pm. The introduction of new Sunday services allows passengers the opportunity to travel into Epsom on Sundays for shopping and leisure purposes and also connect to other bus or rail services for their onward journeys.
- 2.4 The extended bus services require increased hours of operation of the bus stand clearway at stop N, Station Approach, Epsom to 24 hours, Monday to Sunday restriction.
- 2.5 The bus stand clearway is required 24 hours, Monday to Sunday whilst the bus services are working to the extended operating hours. Bus routes E9 and E10 are considered to have some ability to grow patronage to enable the services to be self-supporting when the DfT funding expires. At the end of the funding period consideration will be given to whether the operational hours of the E9 and E10 bus services are still viable. Any alteration in bus stand clearway restriction hours will be considered if the bus service hours change.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The option of doing nothing would mean that buses will not be able to access the bus stand during their extended operational hours.
- 3.2 The preferred option is to extend the hours of operation of the bus stand clearway to be enforceable twenty-four hours a day, Monday to Sunday.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The bus operator, Metrobus, whose routes serve the bus stand outside Epsom Station, has concerns that, without an enforceable clearway for the hours of operation of the bus service, bus drivers may be unable to access the bus stops due to parked vehicles preventing the buses from safely pulling in parallel to the kerb at this location.
- 4.2 Properties in Jubilee House, Station Approach, with possible affected frontages adjacent to the bus stop, will be informed of the proposals regarding the extended hours of operation of the bus stop clearway and will be given a 28-day opportunity for feedback and comment on the proposed changes.
- 4.3 Notices detailing the proposal will be affixed to the parking restriction plates at the bus stop providing a 28-day opportunity for feedback and comment on the proposed changes.
- 4.4 Local taxi companies who use the adjacent taxi stand will be informed of the proposals regarding the extended hours of operation at the bus stop clearway and will be provided with a 28-day opportunity for feedback and comment on the proposed changes.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The provision of a relevant clearway restriction plate to be provided at the bus stop in Station Approach will be supplied from Surrey County Council existing stock.
- 5.2 The provision of a 24-hour, Monday to Sunday bus stand clearway will enable the bus operators to deliver high quality and reliable bus services which will assist with an increase in revenue and to enable the services to be self-supporting when the DfT funding expires so that the increase in operating hours can remain.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, but allowing the increased hours of operation of the clearway to ensure that the bus services can access the bus stand and pull in parallel to this bus stop will enable the continuation of step-free access to buses serving this stop which provide accessibility to these bus services for all bus users, including those with disabilities and mobility issues. It is not envisaged that any protected characteristics will be disbenefitted by the proposals.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 In terms of those who will be impacted by this decision, all bus passengers in the locality will be positively impacted by ensuring step-free access and increased reliability of bus services.
- 7.2 Those vehicles who may use the bus stand outside of the current hours of restriction will no longer be able to do so. The current hours where the clearway is not enforceable and there is no restriction are 8.00pm-6.00am Monday to Saturday and all-day Sunday. There is other short-term parking at these hours in the parking bay to the east of the bus stand.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	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	No significant implications arising from this report

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 It is recommended that approval is given to the extension of the bus stand clearway at bus stop N, Station Approach, Epsom to operate 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday to support the extended operating hours of the E9 & E10 bus routes.

- 9.2 The bus stand clearway will prevent vehicles from parking at the bus stop which will ensure that buses servicing this route are able to access the stand without hindrance. Passengers will also be able to benefit with step-free access onto/off buses at all times of operation by preventing vehicles from parking at the stop. Bus service reliability will remain as the bus can pull in and out of the stop without obstruction.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Appropriate notices will be sent to affected frontages, placed at the bus stop and the taxi companies will be informed of the proposals.
- 10.2 Any concerns or objections will be considered and responded to. If any objections cannot be resolved the Area Highways Manager, in consultation with the chair of this committee and the county councillor for the division will decide whether or not the objection should be acceded to and therefore whether the proposed change should be made, with or without modifications.
- 10.3 If the proposed change is to be made then a new clearway restriction plate will be attached to the bus stop detailing the hours of operation of the parking restriction.
- 10.4 Epsom & Ewell Parking Team will enforce the clearway.

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