

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Mersey Way Phase 4 Highway Improvement Scheme – Proposed Experimental Moving and Static Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

Report to: (a) Central Stockport Area Committee

Date: 14th September

Report of: (b) Director of Place Management

Key Decision: (c)

NO / ~~YES~~ (Please circle)

Forward Plan ☐ General Exception ☐ Special Urgency ☐ (Tick box)

Summary: To report an update on the progress of the Mersey Way Phase 4 Highway Scheme and to seek approval for the introduction of Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders(ETRO) for both Moving and Static restrictions.

Recommendation(s): The Director of Place Management requests that he Central Stockport Area Committee consider and comment upon the following proposals and recommend that the Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways and Transport Services approves the making of the Experimental Moving and Static Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) set out in **Appendix A** and attached drawing.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(d)**
Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(e)**

There are none.

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

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‘Urgent Business’: (f)

YES / NO (please circle)

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as ‘urgent business’ and the decision exempted from ‘call-in’ for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as ‘urgent business’ was obtained on _____ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

Mersey Way – Proposed Experimental Moving and Static Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs)

Report of the Director of Place Management

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to present an update on the Mersey Way Phase 4 Highways Scheme and to seek support for the implementation of proposed Experimental Traffic Regulations Orders (ETROs) required to install the scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Mersey Way Phase 4 Highway improvement scheme seeks to improve the street scene in Stockport town centre, to make the area attractive for visitors by introducing high quality paving, new lighting, benches, planters and improved landscaping. These works will help support the wider regeneration of the town centre and are part of the Council's strategy to improve the high street and create a vibrant town centre that benefits visitors, residents and local businesses.
- 2.2 Mersey Way Phase 4 scheme involves improving the section of the town centre adjacent to Bridge Street. This area as shown on the attached drawing has within its extents an access road to a service area located behind the retail units which is used for loading/unloading by the businesses.
- 2.3 There are currently instances when vehicles are using this access road for purposes other than accessing the service area for loading/unloading which can result in road safety issues for pedestrians. It is therefore proposed as part of this scheme to provide a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone for this access road including Prohibition of driving for all vehicles except those authorised to load/unload in the service area. The existing No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions will be replaced by restricted parking/loading restrictions, which will not require any road markings, which would be aesthetically obtrusive on the new improved paving.
- 2.4 Initially it is proposed to introduce these measures via Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) to allow the restrictions to be monitored for up to 18 months before a decision is made on whether the restrictions are effective. This process will allow any comments from the businesses to be considered.
- 2.7 This report requests that the Central Stockport Area Committee consider and comment upon the following proposals and recommend that the Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways and Transport Services approves the making of the Experimental Moving and Static Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) set out in **Appendix A** and attached drawings.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to introduce a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone except for authorised vehicles on the access road as detailed in the schedule in Appendix A and attached drawing. The proposed ETRO will be monitored with a further report submitted with recommendations for a permanent solution in due course. The ETRO can be in place for a maximum of 18 months.

4. LEGAL POSITION/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Traffic Management Orders would be made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the draft Order.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

- 5.1 Blocking of the road was considered to prevent unauthorised vehicles, however vehicle to need to be put in a safe position for drivers to unlock these gates. This will deter from the aesthetics of the area.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The broad principles of these improvements have been considered by ward councillors.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The scheme will be funded from the Mersey Way Phase 4 Budget.

8. TIMESCALES

- 8.1. Should the proposals be approved and subject to the resolution of any objections received, the scheme should be ready for implementation in November 2023.

9. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. Equal Opportunities

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council's vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

9.2. Sustainable Environment

- To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Place Management requests that the Central Stockport Area Committee consider and comment upon the proposals, and recommend that the Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services approves the introduction of advertisement of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) set out in Appendix A and on the attached drawing.

Background Papers

None

Appendix A – Traffic Regulation Order Schedules.

Experimental Traffic Regulation Order -Pedestrian and Cycle Zone (Except for authorised Vehicles – No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time.

Introduction of Experimental Prohibition of Vehicles (Except for authorised vehicles).

Mersey Way – from its junction with Bridge Street in a south westerly and south easterly direction for a distance of 51 metres.

Introduction of Experimental Restricted Parking – No Waiting/Loading At Any Time.

Mersey Way, Both sides; from its junction with Bridge Street in a south westerly and south easterly direction for a distance of 51 metres.

Suspensions

All existing waiting/loading restrictions to be suspended for the duration of the EXTRO on Mersey Way – from its junction with Bridge Street in a south westerly and south easterly direction for a distance of 51 metres.