

Delegated Decision

APRIL 2022

COUNTY BRIDGE, BARNARD CASTLE

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2022

Ordinary Decision/Key Decision No.



Report of Major Projects - Strategic Traffic Management, Regeneration, Economy and Growth.

Electoral division(s) affected:

Barnard Castle West

Purpose of the Report

To request approval to progress a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce a 7.5T weight limit restriction.

Executive summary

From the 31st May 2022, new laws come into effect which allows the council to enforce the existing restrictions already in place. This will be undertaken via the use of cameras which will enable the bridge to be monitored remotely.

Under the Traffic Management Act (2022), local government authorities have been given the option to apply for powers to enforce against moving traffic offences. Introducing updated technology to the existing camera system on County Bridge, Barnard Castle modernises the existing TRO, meaning it will be suitable for enforcement.

County Bridge is narrow and there have been several previous reports of damage caused by HGVs. On the 17th September 2015, it was recorded that a lorry crossing County Bridge damaged some of the wall, knocking some of the bricks out into the River Tees.

Recommendation

To approve the progression of the TRO as requested.

Background

County Bridge is located in the west of Barnard Castle and is the main bridge to cross over the River Tees.

The bridge has been damaged in the past by large vehicles which have used it to enter/exit the town. Should the bridge be damaged, the associated repair works can further impact on traffic flow, in and out of the town.

The bridge deck itself is narrow and traffic signals are located at either end to control the flow of vehicles across it.

At present, there is an existing 7.5T weight limit restriction covering the full span of County Bridge. This is currently monitored and enforced by Durham Constabulary.

The Traffic Management Act (2022) gives local authorities the opportunity to enforce moving traffic offences. Durham County Council has applied to the Department for Transport to obtain these powers.

If successful, the proposal is to introduce cameras to monitor and enforce the 7.5T weight limit restriction throughout the restricted section.

It is anticipated that the new TRO and monitoring system will assist in reducing the amount of large vehicles using the bridge thus reducing the likelihood of damage being caused.

Main implications

Consent to the progression of the following parking and waiting restrictions: -

To introduce:

7.5T weight limit restrictions to be monitored remotely via the use of cameras to reduce the risk of the bridge being damaged by large vehicles.

Conclusion

It is recommended to progress to formal advertising of the TRO subject to satisfactory consultation, proceed to seal and the creation of an enforceable TRO.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Enforceable TRO

Finance

Strategic Traffic.

Consultation

Statutory Instrument 2489

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No impact on equality and diversity.

Climate Change

It is considered that there are no Climate Change issues to be addressed.

Human Rights

No impact on Human Rights.

Crime and Disorder

No impact on Crime and Disorder

Staffing

No impact on staffing.

Accommodation

No impact.

Risk

No change to the risk impact.

Procurement

Durham County Council Legal Services.