Statement of Reasons

Covid 19 Response

On 23 May 2020 the Secretary of State for Transport introduced new powers for Highway Authorities in England by means of The Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020 enabling those authorities to make Temporary, Experimental and Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in relation to the Covid 19 emergency response. These Orders are designed to allow the implementation of measures on the highway to assist with social distancing, encouraging and maintaining the transport modal shift experienced during lockdown. These measures may include road closures, additional cycle lanes, widening footways, parking restrictions, mode filtering and other measures that may result in these desired outcomes.

These regulations also amend the procedure for making Temporary, Experimental and Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders. Where the authority considers it is not reasonably practicable to publish a notice in a newspaper regarding proposed orders they must publish using alternative arrangements including:

(a) online publication, including websites, online newspapers, email communication or social media;

(b) leaflet distribution;

(c) letter delivery, by post or otherwise.

Newspapers have experienced reduced circulation numbers as a result of Coronavirus and publishing in newspapers introduces delays in the implementation of these C19 related schemes due to print deadlines and publication dates. The County Council is of the opinion that a wider audience can be captured by the alternative arrangements in shorter timescales which will continue to support social distancing and enable the lockdown recovery and prolonged modal shift which will also support the climate emergency status.

The County Council shall publish their intentions primarily using arrangement (a) and information boards placed in the affected streets directing residents and road users as to where they can find additional information.

The Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020 ceases to have effect from 30 April 2021, therefore, the procedure for making Orders will resume under the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Procedure Regulations 1992 from this date.