

Recommendation from Regulatory Committee - 6 April 2017

Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Proposed Access Only Order in Victoria Road, Dorchester

26 The Committee considered a report by the Service Director – Highways and Emergency Planning on proposals for an Access Only Order to be imposed on Victoria Road, Dorchester as a consequence of the implications of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) scheme for highway and pedestrian movement improvements at the Great Western Cross (GWC) junction, Dorchester, which was currently being implemented.

Members were reminded that in order to provide the pedestrian crossing facilities at Great Western Cross without adversely affecting the traffic capacity of the junction, it was necessary to prohibit certain traffic movements. However there was concern that as a consequence, this could lead to increased traffic in Victoria Road as motorists sought an easy alternative to the banned turns. For this reason, a ban on right turns from Damers Road into Victoria Road was considered integral to the overall scheme. However following the prohibition of turns being advertised, concerns were raised that Victoria Road would be used as an alternative means for traffic seeking to circumnavigate GWC. Consequently the Access Only Order was proposed to mitigate against this and had been developed in association with local residents. Advertisement of this proposal had generated the objection members were now being asked to consider, which had been received from a resident of Victoria Road who considered that the Order would be unenforceable and ineffective. Notwithstanding this, and for the reasons set out in the report, the Committee was being asked to recommend to Cabinet that the proposed prohibition of access should be implemented as advertised as a means of preventing inappropriate and disproportionate use of this residential street.

With the aid of a visual presentation officer's described what the Order was designed to achieve, how it would be implemented and its provisions applied. Photographs and plans showed the setting of the road within the character of the townscape and the local road network, the road's characteristics and configuration and its relationship with the Great Western Cross. Clarification was provided at how the provisions of the Order would be applied. Whilst there would be access to properties and on street parking bays, the use of the road by through traffic would not be permitted. It was recognised that effective enforcement was critical in its success. The Order had the support of both local County Councillors for Dorchester - Trevor Jones and Richard Biggs -, West Dorset District Council and Dorchester Town Council who all understood its necessity.

Andy Canning, as one of the local members and as the Chairman of DTEP, considered that the DTEP scheme showed what a joint partnership venture could achieve and how working with local residents directly could achieve positive outcomes, such as this. He advocated that its introduction should be supported, with it subsequently being monitored to assess its effectiveness.

David Sharman, local resident, speaking on behalf of a number of other residents of Victoria Road supported the proposal in that it would deter traffic from using the road as a "rat run" principally to avoid the Cross's signals and the designated alternative route. There had been cause for concern amongst residents that rat running had occurred for some time and the improvement works only heightened that concern. Whilst he hoped the GWC improvements were a success, he emphasised that the only reason an objection had not been lodged by residents of Victoria Road to the works was that mitigating measures would be put in place for

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them and, on that basis, felt that the Committee had an obligation somewhat to approve this scheme.

Members of the Committee asked what alternative measures might be considered to enhance the Order if necessary. Officers responded that they were not in a position to determine what these would be until the access only scheme had been in place and monitoring undertaken to determine its success, or otherwise, and having taken advice from design engineers. One member asked that as parking was limited in the area to access the amenities, consideration should be given to addressing this. However, it was clarified that this was not part of the proposals being debated.

On the basis that a consequence of the GWC improvement scheme being implemented would be that traffic would be seeking alternative routes for convenience being detrimental to those residential streets, the Committee considered that the Access Only Order would be fundamental to the success of, and an integral part of the overall scheme, and necessary to how it successfully operated. They also recognised that enforcement was critical in its success. However the Committee were mindful that this might not do all that it was designed to do and that other measures might well need to be considered in time. Given this, it was

Recommended

That having considered the objection received, the proposed prohibition of access for Victoria Road, Dorchester be approved, as advertised.

Reason for Recommendation

The proposal was designed to deter inappropriate use of a quiet residential street by unsuitable through traffic.