

**Recommendation from Regulatory Committee - 1 June 2017**

**Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Proposed waiting restrictions in High West Street/ High East Street, Dorchester**

36 *(Councillor Mary Penfold confirmed that as she had previously been instrumental in consideration of the DTEP scheme as a West Dorset District Councillor she would play no part in the discussion of this item and left the Committee Room for the duration of consideration of the item)*

The Committee considered a report by the Service Director – Highways and Emergency Planning which explained the proposals to introduce waiting and loading restrictions on High West Street and High East Street, Dorchester as part of an enhancement scheme for the town centre, in contributing towards traffic management improvements as part of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP). Following Cabinet's decision to pare back the original DTEP scheme, certain key elements of DTEP, such as these improvement works, continued to be progressed.

Members were informed that the proposals were designed to remove the existing 'Pay and Display' parking on the northern side of High West Street - between Glyde Path Road and Trinity Street - and to widen the footway, in order to accommodate a disabled access to the Shire Hall Heritage Centre and improve its setting within the townscape. The introduction of a peak-time loading ban along both high streets, between their junctions with Alington Street and Icen Way, was also being proposed in order to reduce traffic congestion and thereby contribute towards the improvement of air quality over that length.

Advertisement of the proposals had resulted in an objection and representations being received and given this there was an obligation for Committee to decide on how to proceed. Accordingly, the Committee was now being asked to give these due consideration and whether the proposed restrictions should be recommended to Cabinet for implementation, as advertised. The objection received considered that the proposed arrangements would be detrimental to their ability to load and unload in the vicinity of their property and their needs would be best served by dedicated parking bays for residents only. However officers considered that the proposals were, on balance, the best achievable in meeting competing needs and addressed the issues being experienced.

With the aid of a visual presentation, officers explained the reasoning behind the need to impose the loading and waiting restrictions and the basis of the objection and representations received. Photographs and plans were shown to the Committee by way of illustration. These showed where the proposals would be situated, the character of the roads, their setting within the townscape and the relationship between the roads and commercial and residential properties. How the improvements were designed to benefit road capacity along the high street, particularly during peak traffic periods, and enhance the setting of the historic listed buildings alongside the road were described.

Officers confirmed that the proposed measures were necessary in order to realise the scheme's objective of improving access for all road users, particularly taking into account the needs of vulnerable road users and would benefit the unimpeded flow of traffic, as far as was practicable, through the town centre.

The Committee were informed that the Scheme had been endorsed by County, District and Town councils and had the support of the two Dorchester local

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members, Richard Biggs and Andy Canning, the latter in his capacity as Chairman of the DTEP Project Working Group.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions of the officer's presentation and took this opportunity to have their understanding of what the proposals entailed clarified.

Having considered the objection and representations received, the Committee understood the need for, and the reasoning behind, the proposals and what benefits they would bring to the capacity of the highway through the town centre and the aesthetic enhancements that would be made to its historic setting. They acknowledged that as an integral part of this scheme being successful, there would need to be effective enforcement of the restrictions and officers confirmed that this would be the case. On that basis, and on being put to the vote, it was

**Recommended**

That Cabinet be asked to approve the waiting and loading restrictions for High West Street and High East Street, Dorchester, as advertised.

**Reason for Recommendation**

The proposals would allow construction of a disabled access to the Shire Hall Heritage Centre without obstructing through flow of pedestrians on the footway and improve the flow of traffic in the high street at peak periods which should provide some improvement to air quality.