



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER MEETING
4 APRIL 2007**

ITEM 10

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community

Replacement of temporary signing on the A50

SUMMARY

1. The Highways Agency have removed the temporary signing on the east and west bound slip roads of the A50/A514 junction. The signs gave advance warning of the 7.5t environmental weight restriction that applies on the A514 through Chellaston. The Highways Agency has provided an estimate of £120,000 for the supply and construction of permanent signs on the A50 to replace these temporary signs. It is considered that the cost of providing this signing is disproportionate to the benefit that it would bring.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. To inform the Highways Agency that the City Council does not wish to proceed with the additional signing on the A50.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The cost of permanent signing on the A50 is disproportionate to the benefit it would bring. Residents have welcomed the improvements already delivered as a consequence of the weight limit and although the removal of the temporary signage on the A50 is regrettably necessary, sufficient and highly visible signage will remain at the junction of the A514 to enable the weight limit to continue to be enforced.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Initial estimates show the costs for amending the existing advance direction signs to warn drivers of the restriction as they approach the roundabouts at the A514 and Shardlow Road junctions are likely to be in the region of £120,000. The costs are high because of the high speed nature of the road. This estimate includes removing the existing 4 large advance direction signs and replacing them with 4 new signs incorporating a roundel indicating the weight restriction. Because of the size of the addition it is not possible to patch the existing signs and because of the change in sign size, new posts and foundations are required plus amendments to the safety fencing. As well as these physical works and associated traffic management some design costs have already been accrued and a safety audit is also required.

- 4.2 Positive comments have been received about the reduction in HGV traffic on the A514 and Shardlow Road since the introduction of the weight restriction. However, it is important to reiterate that goods vehicles making deliveries to shops or households within the immediate areas may still legitimately use both routes.
- 4.3 Since the weight limit's introduction Derbyshire Constabulary still receive complaints about its abuse and have carried out a number of roadside checks of vehicles thought to be contravening the weight restriction. Although only a small number have been stopped as part of these operations, most of the drivers stopped could claim an exemption, or their case was not considered worthy of formal prosecution. It should also be noted that an infringement of this weight restriction does not carry any penalty points for offending drivers, and if dealt with at the scene results in a £30 fine being issued. The Police have requested that the temporary signs are replaced because the most common excuses offered by drivers are that they did not see the signs or they forgot about the restriction or that Satellite Navigation system displayed inaccurate information.

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| Background papers: | None |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 1 – Implications |

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial

1. Design costs and a safety audit of the signs at the roundabout are still outstanding however these are only in the region of £2000 and can be met from the general Traffic Management budget.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None.

Corporate Priorities

5. None.