

WEST BERKSHIRE FACT SHEET

Appendix 3

Experimental Traffic Order Fact Sheet

What is an Experimental Traffic Order?

An experimental order is much like a permanent traffic regulation order in that it is a legal document which imposes traffic and parking restrictions such as road closures, one-way streets, weight restrictions, width restrictions, banned turns, bus/cycle lanes, controlled parking and on-street parking places.

An Experimental Traffic Order is made under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and all other enabling powers after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the 1984 Act.

Unlike a permanent order an experimental order can only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months while the effects of the ban are monitored and assessed (and changes made if necessary), before the Council decides whether or not to continue the experimental order on a permanent basis.

What are the procedures involved in making an experimental traffic order?

Notices must be published in the local newspaper along with notices attached to lamp columns or other street furniture (if appropriate). The Council is also obliged to make a copy of the order and other relevant documents available for public inspection.

Before the Council makes an experimental traffic order it is also obliged to consult the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and organisations representing road users (for example the AA, the RAC, Spokes, CTC, the Pedestrian Association, the Freight Transport Association, the Road Haulage Association).

In certain special circumstances the Council may hold a public enquiry.

Is it possible to object to an experimental traffic regulation order?

It is not possible to lodge a formal objection to an experimental traffic regulation order until it is in force. Once it is in force, objections may be made to the order being made permanent and these must be made within six months of the day that the experimental order comes into force.

If the experimental order is changed, then objections may be made within six months of the day that the experimental order is changed.