

Report to Director of Highways, Transport & Planning

Date August 2021

Worthing: Portland Road Regeneration Scheme

Report by Head of Transport & Network Operations

Electoral division(s): Worthing Pier

Summary

A scheme to regenerate the Portland Road Area in Worthing is underway, with the intention to create a new pedestrian friendly public space. New Traffic Regulation Orders are needed to fully enact the proposed scheme. A statutory consultation on these has been carried out and one objection received.

Recommendation

That, having considered the points raised in objection to the proposal, the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning authorises the Director of Law and Assurance to make the Order as advertised.

Proposal

1 Background and context

1.1 The Portland Road regeneration scheme is being managed by Worthing Borough Council, with funding arranged by West Sussex Council and the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. The aim of the scheme is to improve pedestrian access to Worthing Town Centre and to create a new pedestrian friendly space in a currently underutilised part of Worthing's main shopping area. A leaflet briefly explaining the scheme is attached as [Appendix A](#) (PDF, 4MB).

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 As part of the new proposal new Traffic Regulation Orders are required which will have the following effects:
- 2.2 To prohibit all vehicles from driving at any time in Portland Road from its junction with Montague Street, northwards to its junction with Chandos Road. This will make this section of road a pedestrian area at all times.
- 2.3 In Chandos Road, from its junction with Grafton Road to its junction with Portland Road, and in Portland Road from Chandos Road to Shelley Road, all vehicles will be prohibited except for goods vehicles making deliveries between 10pm and 10am the following morning. Taxis would also be permitted during these hours.

- 2.4 The proposed Orders also remove all parking from the lengths of roads mentioned above, except for a loading bay which can be used only during the hours access is permitted.
- 2.5 The one-way traffic order for Chandos Road will be amended so that access to the car park at Grafton House can be maintained without vehicles driving through the new pedestrianised area.
- 2.6 Drawings showing the proposed restrictions are attached as [Appendix B](#) (PDF, 3MB).

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 Once the proposal to create the new public space was settled, various different restriction types and timings of restrictions were considered during the detailed design process. The advertised proposal was arrived at after initial consultation with local businesses and residents carried out by Worthing Borough Council and is considered the best option to achieve the aims of the scheme while maintaining suitable delivery access to business and access to other premises in the affected roads.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 Following extensive local consultation carried out by Worthing Borough Council during the development of the scheme, a statutory public consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders needed to enact the new restrictions was held from 15 July 2021 to 12 August 2021.
- 4.2 Notice of the consultation was published in the Worthing Herald on 15 July 2021 and consultation documentation sent to statutory consultees, including Sussex Police, the fire service, ambulance service and local bus companies. Details of the consultation was also sent to the businesses on the affected roads and notices of the proposal were erected on site.
- 4.3 Initial development of the design of the scheme was conducted in consultation with the previous local member, Cllr Michael Cloake. The new local Member, Cllr John Turley, has been consulted on the previously agreed scheme and supports progression of the TROs necessary to enact it.
- 4.4 In response to the public consultation, one message of objection was received from a resident in Goring. The points raised are summarised in [Appendix C](#) (PDF, 41KB) to this report, along with a response from a West Sussex County Council officer.

5 Finance

- 5.1 The proposal removes pay and display parking bays which currently generate income contributing towards the cost of operating parking services. It is estimated that removing these bays will result in a £30,000 reduction to annual income. The impact of this will need to be managed within the overall On Street Parking budget.
- 5.2 The capital cost of the scheme is being funded from a grant allocation of up to £2.91 million to Worthing Borough Council for various Public Realm Improvement Schemes in Worthing from the West Sussex County Council

Capital Programme. Additional funds have been provided by the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership.

5.3 The effect of the proposal:

(a) **How the proposal represents good value**

Management of the works associated with this scheme has been assigned to Worthing Borough Council, who are responsible for tendering delivery of works and ensuring value for money with contractors associated with the project.

(b) **Future savings/efficiencies being delivered**

None.

(c) **Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact**

None.

6 **Risk implications and mitigations**

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Failure to deliver the required TRO will prevent the full scheme being installed, leading to expense being incurred on works without achieving the intended benefits of the proposal.	It is recommended that the TRO be approved so the scheme can be fully delivered.

7 **Policy alignment and compliance**

- 7.1 The introduction of the proposed restrictions is in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and causes no conflict with the Human Rights Act or the Crime and Disorder Act.
- 7.2 Prohibiting driving and removing parking in these roads will reduce access for disabled motorists, including the loss of a blue badge holders parking bay in Portland Road. Changes of this nature must be assessed to ensure compliance with the Equality Act.
- 7.3 To mitigate the loss of parking for motorists with a disabled persons' blue badge, the consultant working on the scheme has submitted an application for a second Traffic Regulation Order providing further parking facilities for disabled drivers in the western section of Chandos Road and this proposal is being considered separately. Overall, it is considered that the scheme will improve access to the Portland Road amenities for disabled pedestrians, and that the benefits of this outweigh any negative effects of the scheme to disabled motorists.
- 7.4 The proposed restrictions change the highway from being focussed on access for motor vehicles to a new layout which prioritises use for pedestrians and cyclists. This complies with the Government policy on re-assessing the use of

highways and with West Sussex County Council's policy of providing a safe and sustainable place.

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Appendices

[Appendix A: Consultant's scheme literature](#) (PDF, 4MB)

[Appendix B: Drawings showing proposed TRO restrictions](#) (PDF, 3MB)

[Appendix C: Summary of objections](#) (PDF, 41KB)

Background papers

None