

# Agenda Item IMD17

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REFERENCE IMD: 2016/17

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>TITLE</b>                | <b>Tabby Drive, Three Mile Cross<br/>- Proposed Traffic Regulation Order 2016</b> |
| <b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b> | <b>John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and<br/>Highways</b>                |
| <b>ON<br/>TIME</b>          | 12 April 2016<br>10.00am  |
| <b>WARD</b>                 | Shinfield South   |
| <b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>   | Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment   |

### OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This proposal would remove the existing 'bus gate' restriction (introduced in October 2012 when the Mitford Fields development opened), as in the event buses have not used the estate. This would improve vehicular access arrangements for local residents, and resolve the difficulties experienced by the police in enforcing the restriction, which has become regularly abused. It is intended to retain a right-turn ban out of Tabby Drive onto the Basingstoke Road, to ensure safety of pedestrians using the nearby pedestrian crossing.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Planning and Highways:

- approves the formal sealing and advertisement of the WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (BASINGSTOKE ROAD AND TABBY DRIVE, THREE MILE CROSS) (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT-HAND TURN) ORDER 2016
- instructs officers to inform those who have responded accordingly.

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

The council introduced a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in October 2012 at the junction of Tabby Drive with Basingstoke Road, at Three Mile Cross, as a result of the new housing development at Mitford Fields. The Traffic Order was considered necessary to restrict access to the development to buses only using this junction, i.e. a 'bus gate', but in the event, buses have not operated in the new development, making the bus gate superfluous, and this has led to widespread abuse of the restriction by motorists, and the police have requested that the council review the need for the Traffic Order. It is considered necessary to retain the ban on the right turn movement out of Tabby Drive onto Basingstoke Road. The proposed revised layout of the junction is illustrated on Drawing No TW033-GA-002d. The new TRO was advertised on the 11 February 2016 and letters were sent to statutory consultees, and some 406 local residents and organisations. 22 Responses were received, of which 17 support the proposal, 1 objects and 4 make other comments. The report recommends the making of the order.

## **Background and consultation**

The council introduced a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in October 2012 at the junction of Tabby Drive with Basingstoke Road, at Three Mile Cross, as a result of the new housing development at Mitford Fields (under Planning Permission RM/2009/0727), in which a scheduled bus service had been planned through the new development. The Traffic Order was considered necessary to restrict access to the development to buses only using this junction, i.e. a 'bus gate', in order to avoid the road being used by extraneous through traffic using the new development's residential roads. It was also considered necessary to introduce certain turning bans to prevent vehicle turning manoeuvres that could conflict with a new pelican crossing being provided to assist pedestrians to cross the Basingstoke Road to use both the local bus service and the local amenities. The crossing was also linked to a new safe footway route on the southern side of Basingstoke Road which leads to the park-and-ride site off the A33 (on MereOak Lane).

In the event, buses have not operated in the new development, making the bus gate superfluous, and this has led to widespread abuse of the restriction by motorists, and the police have requested that the council review the need for the Traffic Order. However, there remains some concern that vehicles could still perform unsafe turning manoeuvres at the pelican crossing and so it is considered necessary to retain the ban on the right turn movement out of Tabby Drive onto Basingstoke Road. The proposed revised layout of the junction is illustrated on Drawing No TW033-GA-002d.

A Notice of Intent was published on the 11 February 2016 with a deadline for responses by the 3rd March 2016. A letter was also sent to statutory consultees, and some 406 local residents and organisations.

## **Responses to TRO Consultation**

The Council received 22 replies.

Of those, 17 respondents expressed support for the proposed restrictions (including 9 who made additional various comments)

One objection was received and 4 other respondents commented on the proposals but indicated neither support or objection.

All consultation feedback is detailed in appendix A.

## **Recommendation and Conclusion**

Based on the consultation taken place and the level of response, the overwhelming view was support for the proposed restrictions. It is therefore recommended to approve the making of the proposed order.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

|                                   | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital?                        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1)   | £0                            | Yes   | All funded through developer contributions |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2)      |                               |   |  |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) |                               |   |  |

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

**Cross-Council Implications** (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?) It does not impact on other services.

### SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Strategic Director - Resources</b> | No comments   |
| <b>Monitoring Officer</b>             | No comments   |
| <b>Leader of the Council</b>          | No comments   |
| <b>Town and Parish Councils</b>       |   |
| Shinfield Parish Council              | No comments   |
|                                       |   |
| <b>Local Ward Members</b>             |   |
| Cllr Haitham Taylor                   | “This proposal is what local members have been campaigning for since this application came to the council for reserved matters. Therefore, I fully support the proposed traffic regulation offer to change the bus gate into a junction for cars to enter and exit the Mitford fields estate. This will help alleviate some of the traffic that currently goes up and down the Grazeley Road. I would also support the Council looking into whether a yellow box or keep clear sign would also help at this junction (Basingstoke Road and Tabby Drive) to keep the traffic flowing and allow free movement in and out of the Mitford Fields estate.” |
| Barry Patman                          | No comments   |
| Anthony Pollock                       | No comments   |

### List of Background Papers

Notice of Intent, Statement of Reasons, Drawing Number TW033-GA-002d, consultation letter and responses

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|--|--|
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