

# **REPORT TO THE HEAD OF HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT**

## **REPRESENTATION TO AN ADVERTISED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

### **The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull (Hobs Moat Road and Lode Lane, Solihull) (Sprint Corridor) (Various Provisions) Order 2021**

**29/07/2021**

**LEAD OFFICER: STEVE HAWLEY**

#### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider representations received to a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to amend existing, and introduce new red route bus stop clearways to facilitate SPRINT buses.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 Sprint is a Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) project, part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, and is intended to deliver an uninterrupted cross-city bus route connecting Walsall to Solihull and the Airport via Birmingham along the A34 and A45. The route splits at the Wheatsheaf Junction with one heading to Solihull Railway Station and one to Birmingham International Airport
- 2.2 The delivery of Sprint has the potential to greatly enhance the experience of millions of bus users each year, offering a more cost effective, environmentally-friendly and reliable transport option.

To support the delivery of the Sprint scheme it is necessary to amend a number of existing bus stops along the Lode Lane/Hobs Moat Road corridor to facilitate the larger Sprint buses, in addition a small number of new stops are proposed to enhance the efficiency of the service.

- 2.3 The proposals as advertised are detailed in Appendix A.

#### **3 Matters for Consideration**

- 3.1 The proposals were formally advertised on 18 June 2021 and the closing date for receipt of representations was 9 July 2021.
- 3.2 In total 5 representations were received to the proposed Order, all in relation to the proposed extension of the existing bus stop clearway on Lode lane outside property numbers 449-443. However, the objections were focused on the provision of a new shelter and the anticipated antisocial behaviour and loss of privacy, rather than the extension of the existing clearway which is the purpose of this Traffic Regulation Order. No objections were received to the other advertised proposals.

#### **4 Ward Members' Views**

- 4.1 The Ward Members in the affected wards were informed of the proposals prior to the advertising of the Order, an objection was subsequently received from Councillor Kathryn Thomas supporting the concerns around and the anticipated antisocial behaviour and loss of privacy raised by the four other objectors.

#### **5 Officer Recommendation**

- 5.1 The objections received relate to the provision of a new bus shelter, rather than the Traffic Regulation Order amendment. However, having discussed this matter with colleagues at TfWM the TRO proposal in relation to this location will be withdrawn.
- 5.2 TfWM we will be working with Solihull MBC and Councillors and plan to engage with local residents as soon as possible, to listen to their concerns and seek to reach an acceptable outcome over the passenger facilities at this stop. Any further sprint proposals in relation to this location would then come forward in a second phase of Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 5.3 It is therefore recommended that the Order is implemented as originally advertised, with the exception of the bus stop clearway amendment shown on Plan TP-000004-P02.

#### **6 Democratic Services**

- 6.1 Democratic Services have confirmed that the proposed order was subject to statutory advertisement on the dates reported and that representations were received as noted above.

#### **7 Risk Implications**

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Management Approach has been complied with to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision / project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation and reputation risks.
- 7.2 The Approach is not intended to eliminate all risks and not all the risks identified can be managed all of the time. Also, risks will still exist that have not been identified

#### **8 For decision**

- 8.1 The Head of Highway Management is asked to approve that:

**The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull (Hobs Moat Road and Lode Lane, Solihull) (Sprint Corridor) (Various Provisions) Order 2021** is implemented with the modifications described in 5.3.

**The recommendation as set out above is hereby approved:**

P.S.Tovey

29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Signature: .....Date:.....

**Paul Tovey**  
**Head of Highway Management**