

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR JULIE MCMANUS**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

**PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**WARDS AFFECTED: WALLASEY, NEW BRIGHTON**

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**SUBJECT: KINGS PARADE / COASTAL DRIVE, WALLASEY  
PROHIBITION OF MOTOR CARAVANS EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2018**

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### **1.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

1.1 The Cabinet Member for Community Services is requested to:

(1) Note the objections received and the Officers' responses; and

(2) Approve that the parking restrictions to prohibit parking 'motor caravans' 8pm - 8am should continue indefinitely as shown on attached drawing no. TD0750f0.

### **2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

2.1 At the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 4 July 2018 it was recommended that a ban on 'Overnight Sleeping' on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive, Wallasey be introduced. A Scrutiny Review Panel was also established in order to review these issues with campervan parking and to understand resident concerns, whilst ultimately looking to inform the development of a future policy for Wirral to encourage its thriving visitor economy.

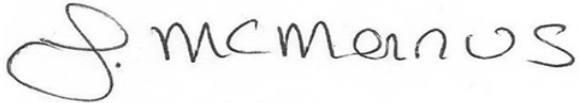
### **3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

### **4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

4.1 There are no conflicts of interest.

**Signed:**



**Executive Member: Cllr Julie McManus**

**Date: 10 June 2020**

**Also present:**

**Signed:**



**Chief Officer: Simon Fox**

**Date: 10 June 2020**

**Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):**

**A list of background papers on this issue is held with:**

Contact Officer: David Kirk

Date: 14 May 2020

**Date of Publication:**

**Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:**

**3 JUNE 2020**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>KINGS PARADE / COASTAL DRIVE, WALLASEY PROHIBITION OF MOTOR CARAVANS EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2018</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>SIMON FOX, INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>

Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services, said:

“Our stunning countryside, parks and coastal areas understandably attract visitors from across the country and abroad.

“The long term aim is to find better, allocated space for motor caravan owners to park up and enjoy our borough – a space which works well for both visitors and our local communities.”

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report considers objections to the experimental traffic regulation order (ETRO) to prohibit ‘motor caravans’ 8pm - 8am.

The effective management of motor caravans and other visitors to the borough primarily contributes to the Wirral Plan Pledge to achieve a Vibrant Tourist Economy.

To date the effect of this ETRO has mainly had an effect to the Wallasey and New Brighton Wards.

This matter does not require a Key Decision.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Cabinet Member for Community Services is requested to:

(1) Note the objections received and the Officers’ responses; and

(2) Approve that the parking restrictions to prohibit parking ‘motor caravans’ 8pm - 8am on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive should continue indefinitely as shown on attached drawing no. TD0750f0.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit 'motor caravans' from 8pm - 8am on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive came into operation on the 14 of November 2018. An experimental order can only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months while the effects are monitored and assessed. The recommendation is that the Order now be made into a permanent traffic regulation order.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 In October 2017, Ward Members requested a meeting with officers to look at potential options for the management of motor caravans visiting New Brighton. The options identified focused on:
- removing / discouraging campervans from parking on the highway by regulation (i.e. a Traffic Regulation Order to ban or charge for vehicles),
  - incentivising such vehicles to park at an alternative off-highway site or
  - taking no further action.

These options were presented to the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee in a report entitled Management of Campervans at Coastal Locations on the 4 July 2018.

- 2.2 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee made a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport that a ban on 'Overnight Sleeping' on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive, Wallasey be introduced if legally possible to do so, and that a Working party be established, to which all stakeholders be invited, to enable recommendations to be made to the committee on the issue of campervans. A Scrutiny Review Panel was established in order to review these issues with campervan parking and to understand resident concerns, whilst ultimately looking to inform the development of a future policy for Wirral to encourage its thriving visitor economy.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 An Experimental Traffic Order is made under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. An experimental order can only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months while the effects are monitored and assessed before the Council decides whether or not to continue with the changes brought in by the experimental order on a permanent basis.
- 3.2 The Experimental Traffic order to prohibit 'motor caravans' from 8pm - 8am on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive came into operation on the 14 of November 2018 and was initially to be in place for 12 months. However, it was extended on 28 August 2019 to run for a further period of 6 months.

- 3.3 The decision to make the order and its extension were advertised in the Wirral Globe and accompanying notices were posted on site.
- 3.4 Once the order 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.
- 3.5 Following investigation of what other authorities had introduced and discussions with the Department of Transport on legislative and enforceable signing, signs as prescribed by the Department for Transport were erected which allowed for enforcement to be undertaken if it was observed that 'motor caravans' were parking in contravention to the ETRO.

#### **4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 As part of the consultation exercise for this order direct consultation has taken place with Party Spokespersons and Ward Members. Notices of this ETRO were also publicly advertised.
- 4.2 An objector states that motorhomes should be able to continue to park on the two cul-de-sacs of Kings Parade and Coastal Drive as they were away from residential properties and not in the main flow of traffic on the frontage. There was no evidence to support waste being left by people staying in motorhomes. The objector also stated that New Brighton is a prime tourist location and the council should for a small cost to motorhome owners provide a place for clean water and waste disposal. The objector is also concerned that if a person is to stay just after 8pm to watch the sunset they may be subject to a fine.

**In response; The introduction of restrictions for the overnight staying of motor caravans is not a total ban on the entire length of New Brighton frontage and it was only where signs had been erected that vehicles were not permitted to stay overnight. It was acknowledged at the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting – Management of Campervans at Coastal Locations 4 July 2018 that there was anecdotal evidence of environmental offences being committed and it was reported anecdotally that a proportion of these staying in campervans contributed to the local economy. The Scrutiny Review Panel identified that there is a clear need for an alternative off-highway provision with dedicated facilities for motor caravans at a central location along the North Wirral coast. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Panel requested that the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee approve the findings of the Scrutiny Review Panel and refer this report to the most relevant committee within the new governance arrangements for 2020/21 for consideration so that these findings might be used to inform future provision for motor caravans at coastal**

locations. A pilot project is currently being considered by officers from the Council's Commercial Management team offering a caravan and motorhome overnight stay solution.

The enforcement of restrictions would only take place where it had been observed that persons were staying overnight.

- 4.3 An objector states that he is local and would like to park at this location and not on other parts of the New Brighton frontage and for economic reasons lives locally and wants to stay local. Concern that people from outside the area will not come to the area and contribute to the economy. He would want a nominal charge to be offered to be able to continue to park at this location.

**In response; There are many locations where it is possible for motor caravans to stay locally. It was acknowledged at the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting – Management of Campervans at Coastal Locations 4 July 2018 that anecdotally that a proportion of these staying in campervans contributed to the local economy. The Scrutiny Review Panel identified that there is a clear need for an alternative off-highway provision with dedicated facilities for motor caravans at a central location along the North Wirral coast. On 4th March 2020 the Panel requested that the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee approve the findings of the Scrutiny Review Panel and refer this report to the most relevant committee within the new governance arrangements for 2020/21 for consideration so that these findings might be used to inform future provision for motor caravans at coastal locations. A pilot project is currently being considered by officers from the Council's Commercial Management team offering a caravan and motorhome overnight stay solution.**

- 4.4 An objector states that they are visitors to the area with their motorhome and add to the economy, do not litter and whilst here use the area for walking, visiting the beach and enjoying local amenities and would park in the area which is now restricted.

**In response; There are many locations where it is possible for motor caravans to stay locally. It was acknowledged at the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting – Management of Campervans at Coastal Locations July 2018 that anecdotally that a proportion of these staying in campervans contributed to the local economy. The Scrutiny Review Panel identified that there is a clear need for an alternative off-highway provision with dedicated facilities for motor caravans at a central location along the North Wirral coast. On 4th March 2020 the Panel requested that the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee approve the findings of the Scrutiny Review Panel and refer this report to the most relevant committee within the new governance arrangements for 2020/21 for consideration so that these findings might be used to inform future provision for motor caravans at coastal locations. A pilot project is currently being considered by officers from the Council's Commercial Management team offering a caravan and motorhome overnight stay solution.**

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost of introducing the signage for this scheme has already been met. If it is decided that the prohibition of motor caravans should not continue indefinitely, then there will be additional costs for the removal of existing signs and posts which will be funded from the 2020/21 Traffic Management revenue budget.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Road Traffic Regulation Orders can be made by the Council under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose traffic and parking restrictions.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 Existing staff resources will be used to deliver this project.

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 8.1 Failure to make the order permanent may result in the area becoming heavily parked by motor caravans and the council unable to undertake any enforcement action which may result in complaints from local residents and some visitors to the area.

## **9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 As part of the consultation exercise for this ETRO direct consultation has taken place with Party Spokespersons and Ward Members. Notices of this ETRO were also publicly advertised.
- 9.2 The consultation process has followed the following guiding principles of fair consultation:
- It should be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage
  - Must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response
  - Those consulted should be made aware of the factors that are of decisive relevance to the decision
  - Adequate time should be given for consideration and response
  - The product of the consultation should be conscientiously taken into account by the decision makers in finalising their statutory proposals/ when the ultimate decision is taken

## **10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This scheme has been subject to an equality impact assessment. A copy can be found at:-

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

10.2 The Council has an obligation under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality duty (Sect 149 2011) to show due regard to the duty and show due regard to mitigate any negative impacts that may affect people with protected characteristics under the Act. We recognise that this decision may have an impact on those who would wish to access certain locations by motor vehicle and other modes of transport. We will be publishing details of any restrictions and alternative routes where applicable.

## 11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The proposals are not expected to have any significant impact on climate change and / or the environment. It is not envisaged that pollution will increase as a result of the proposals.

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## APPENDICES

Drawing No. TD0750f0 Proposed Experimental Order for the Prohibition of Motor Caravans.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Management of Campervans in Wallasey and New Brighton Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
2. Management of Campervans in Wallasey and New Brighton Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
3. Consultation correspondence and responses received to consultation.

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 March 2020
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2018