



Item: 9

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 10 September 2024.

Prohibition of Driving – Bridge Street and Albert Street, Kirkwall.

Report by Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

1. Overview

- 1.1. The Council has received a request to close Bridge Street, Kirkwall, on Friday and Saturday nights which, if approved, would require the introduction of a new order to prohibit driving on Bridge Street and Albert Street, Kirkwall, and adjacent streets to vehicular traffic.
- 1.2. Officers have engaged with the Kirkwall BID Manger who has discussed this with the Board who are prepared to consult with BID members. Options will be presented to BID members as part of the proposed engagement process.
- 1.3. Maintenance costs associated with the flagstones on Victoria Street, Bridge Street and Albert Street continue to be a burden on the revenue budget. Reducing the volume of traffic using the street would result in less maintenance.
- 1.4. The current prohibition of driving order prohibits vehicles from driving on Bridge Street, Albert Street or Laing Street; however there are several exceptions which leaves this order open to interpretation and abuse by drivers. In addition, the Prohibition of Vehicles order on the section of Albert Street between Laing Street and Broad Street operates between the hours of 11:00 and 15:00 daily.
- 1.5. The proposal would extend the prohibition to cover the whole length of Bridge Street and Albert Street, and by implication St Olaf's Wynd, Bridge Street Wynd and Laing Street. The period of the prohibition would be between 11:00 and 15:00 daily, 23:00 Friday to 03:30 Saturday and 23:00 Saturday to 03:30 Sunday.
- 1.6. The restrictions would exclude all traffic except emergency vehicles or vehicles being used for the purpose of utility works and essential building works.

- 1.7. Options on how to manage the closure have been considered. Signage would need to be placed by the Council, and bollards have been considered. The developer has confirmed they would contribute to the cost of these.
- 1.8. The introduction of new retractable bollards at the start of Bridge Street and end of Albert Street would ensure strict control of the prohibition order and ensure the safety of pedestrians during all road closure events, and reduce the costs associated with street maintenance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
 - i. Note that the Council has received a request to close Bridge Street and Albert Street, Kirkwall, to vehicular traffic, on Friday and Saturday nights.
 - ii. Note that, in order to facilitate the request, the Council would be required to introduce a permanent Traffic Regulation Order.
 - iii. Note that the restrictions would exclude all traffic except emergency vehicles or vehicles being used for the purpose of utility works and essential building works.
 - iv. Authorise the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure to undertake public engagement and report the outcome to the Committee, prior to commencing statutory consultation in respect of introducing a new Prohibition of Driving Order.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. It is proposed to commence engagement with the public and the Kirkwall BID and present the outcomes to the Committee in due course.
- 3.2. Should the Council decide that changes should be made to the existing prohibition of driving restrictions, statutory and public consultation, as set out in the Regulations, would be required.

For Further Information please contact:

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Implications of Report

1. **Financial** – None at this time, however costs associated with introduction a new TRO would be borne by the Roads Revenue budget.

2. **Legal** – If the Council wishes to introduce new restrictions, it must obtain a traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The requirements of The Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 have been observed as regards the form of the order and the procedure to date.
3. **Corporate Governance** – None.
4. **Human Resources** – None.
5. **Equalities** –Nothing at this time.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – Not required.
7. **Links to Council Plan** - The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - Growing our economy.
 - Strengthening our Communities.
 - Developing our Infrastructure.
 - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** - The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - Cost of Living.
 - Sustainable Development.
 - Local Equality.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk** – Restricting traffic from the streets will reduce the emissions and improve the environment for pedestrians.
10. **Risk** – Less traffic during busy times will reduce the risk to pedestrians and vulnerable road users.
11. **Procurement** – None at this time.
12. **Health and Safety** –The request is to ensure the safe movement of vehicles whilst customers are accessing and exiting the venue and to protect nearby residents from nuisance traffic.
13. **Property and Assets** – None.
14. **Information Technology** – None.
15. **Cost of Living** – None.

List of Background Papers

None.