

KINGSHILL ROAD 7.5 TONNES WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER 2023

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Council declared an Air Quality Management Zone on Kingshill Road (A4289) in February 2017 as a result of the level of noxious emissions (NO₂) detected within the air exceeding the annual average air quality objective of 40µg/m³ (levels were at 56µg/m³ at time of declaration). The poor air quality on Kingshill Road is considered to be as a result of a combination of factors, one of which being the contribution of exhaust emissions from larger vehicles using the route. In order to meet the objective of 40mcg/m³, Nitrogen Dioxide produced via use of the road must be reduced by 30%. In order to achieve this; the number of vehicles using the road must be reduced by at least 30%, or the emissions of NO₂ from vehicles must be reduced by at least 30%, or a combination of both.

Resultantly, an Air Quality Action Plan has been prepared for this road, and approved by Cabinet in February 2018, outlining a number of actions by which to achieve improvements in the air quality. One item on the Action Plan is the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict the size of vehicles permitted to use Kingshill; a weight limit. It has been proposed to make this a 7.5 tonne weight limit (except for access), between the B4289 Westcott Place and Okus Road junctions, as this would have the greatest impact on reducing air pollution levels by restricting access for a greater number of vehicles.

A number of traffic surveys (loops, tubes and CCTV surveys) have been commissioned to ascertain the composition of vehicles using Kingshill Road, complemented by an ANPR survey that was undertaken in January 2022. This provided a more robust dataset than previous surveys as many differing properties of a vehicle can be identified, based on its vehicle registration number (VRN), including its weight, the origin and destination of the vehicle within the area of interest and the time taken to travel between the two points. This would indicate whether the vehicle in question had stopped in Old Town, or passed through to an onward destination.

Using this data, Officers have assessed the likely number of vehicles that would be impacted by this weight limit, and the most appropriate alternative route that should be signed for any affected vehicles. The alternative route will comprise of Great Western Way (Mannington Roundabout to Transfer Bridges), County Road and, for any vehicles travelling to Old Town or south Swindon, Drove Road. Vehicles travelling to Junction 15 of the M4 or east Swindon will have the option to leave the alternative route at the Magic Roundabout. The reverse route would apply to vehicles approaching from East Swindon.

The reason for making this order is to improve the environment for local residents

This request has been delivered in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Members and local Ward Councillors.

Traffic Management & Road Safety
Strategic Transport
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