

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE FALKIRK COUNCIL (ICEHOUSE BRAE, LAURIESTON AND LAURIESTON ROAD, GRANGEMOUTH) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2013

Meeting: PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: 29 JANUARY 2014

Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Ward: Grangemouth and Lower Braes

Local Members: Councillor David Balfour
Councillor Allyson Black
Baillie Joan Paterson
Councillor Robert Spears
Councillor Steven Jackson
Councillor Malcolm Nicol
Councillor Alan Nimmo

Community Council: N/A

Council Officer: Russell Steedman – Network Co-ordinator

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision on The Falkirk Council (Icehouse Brae, Laurieston and Laurieston Road, Grangemouth) (Weight Restriction) Order 2013. In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this decision requires to be made by Committee as an objection has been received to the making of the order. In terms of the relevant legislation, the authority requires to consider all objections made and not withdrawn before making the order.
- 1.2 Members should be aware that it is available to them to call for a hearing on the Order should they find themselves unable to determine whether the Order should be made or not at this stage. Such a hearing would be conducted by an independent party appointed by the Council from a list of persons compiled by the Scottish Ministers for that purpose. Members would then need to consider the report and recommendation of the Reporter before making a determination.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 With the exclusion of Icehouse Brae roundabout, there has, historically, been a 7.5 tonne weight limit from Zetland Drive, Laurieston, to Falkirk Road, Grangemouth. The existing TRO as shown on attached drawing numbered CR/001 was promoted prior to construction of the A9 Laurieston By-Pass and more recently the Icehouse Brae roundabout.

- 2.2 The existing TRO contains a provision permitting vehicles weighing over 7.5 tonnes access to premises located on Laurieston Road and Icehouse Brae.
- 2.3 The existing road geometry of Laurieston Road is not to current standards and requires larger vehicles to travel along the middle of the road when negotiating a double bend located just south of the Laurieston Road Industrial area.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Given that significant alterations to the road network have taken place and the sub-standard layout of Laurieston Road, it is considered appropriate to revise the extent and effect of the current weight limit Order.
- 3.2 It is proposed to reduce the extent of the existing weight limit to cover the length of road from Icehouse Brae roundabout north to a point just south of the access to Thornbridge Sawmills as shown on the attached drawing numbered CR/002. Access to vehicles weighing over 7.5 tonnes will be permitted to premises located within the proposed extent of the weight limit.
- 3.3 The effect of this TRO would require all vehicles weighing over 7.5 tonnes to access the Laurieston Road industrial area via the A904, Falkirk Road.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 One objection to the proposed TRO has been received and following explanatory correspondence, this objection has not been withdrawn.
- 4.2 The objector's stated grounds for objection were as follows:
 - 4.2.1 Grangemouth Road is a busy road and the proposed TRO may have an adverse effect on the proposed traffic signal scheme at Earlsgate roundabout.
 - 4.2.2 If there is a blockage on the road, the Laurieston Road should be available as an alternative route.
 - 4.2.3 Beancross Road has a temporary weight restriction and the impact this has had is still to be determined.
- 4.3 Development Services responded to the objection on 18 November 2013 as follows:
 - 4.3.1 The objector was advised that the proposed order states that the alternative route for vehicles weighing over 7.5 tonnes is via the A9 passing Falkirk Football Stadium and along the A904 Falkirk Road.
 - 4.3.2 The objector was advised that construction of Icehouse Brae roundabout was the first phase of a scheme designed to improve access to the Laurieston Road industrial area. The second phase involves construction of a link road from Icehouse Brae roundabout to the industrial area and as part of that scheme the weight limit would be removed over this link road.

4.3.3 The objector was advised that the existing TRO for the part-time weight limit on Beancross Road is not a temporary TRO and is unaffected by the proposed order.

4.4 The objector was asked to formally withdraw their objection should they be minded to do so.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The purpose of the Order is to amend the extent of the existing environmental weight limit in light of significant alterations to the road network.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to consider the objections and determine whether the Order should be made.

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Director of Development Services

Date: 20th January 2014

Contact Officer: Russell Steedman, Network Co-ordinator Tel: Ext 4830

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Falkirk Council (Icehouse Brae, Laurieston and Laurieston Road, Grangemouth) (Weight Restriction) Order 2013.
2. Letter of objection and correspondence.