

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE FALKIRK COUNCIL (7.5T PART-TIME WEIGHT RESTRICTION) (A905, BEANCROSS ROAD, GRANGEMOUTH) ORDER 2012
Meeting: PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Ward: Grangemouth

**Local Members: Councillor David Balfour
Councillor Allyson Black
Councillor Joan Paterson
Councillor Robert Spears**

Community Council: Grangemouth (including Skinflats) Community Council

Council Officer: Russell Steedman – Network Co-ordinator

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision on The Falkirk Council (7.5T Part-Time Weight Restriction) (A905, Beancross Road, Grangemouth) Order 2012. In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this decision requires to be made by Committee as unresolved objections have 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 In terms of the relevant legislation, the authority requires to consider all objections made, and not withdrawn, before making the Order.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 There have been long running issues for properties in the immediate vicinity of Beancross Road relating to vehicle noise caused, in general, by heavy goods vehicle movements.
- 2.2 A report was presented to the Planning Committee on 3 November 2010 asking Members to consider the introduction of either an experimental full-time or part-time (6pm – 8am) weight restriction on Beancross Road. Members decided to make a site visit to Beancross Road which was carried out on 19 November 2010 with discussion on site with officers and local residents.

- 2.3 Following the site visit an update report was presented to the Planning Committee on 1 December 2010. Members were asked to consider the introduction of either an experimental full-time, or part-time, (6pm – 8am) weight restriction on Beancross Road. After consideration, Members elected to introduce an experimental part-time weight restriction (Mon - Fri 6pm – 8am & Sat – Sun 24hrs). In terms of the relevant legislation an experimental order can only be in place for a maximum of 18 months. Therefore the effectiveness of the experimental order would be reported back to committee after 12 months.
- 2.4 Development Services promoted an experimental traffic regulation order to introduce a part-time 7.5T weight restriction in line with the committee decision of 1 December 2010.
- 2.5 A report was presented to the planning committee on 28 November 2012. This report provided Members with a summary on the effectiveness of the experimental order in terms of traffic figures and consultation responses. The committee were presented with four options. Members elected to promote a traffic regulation order to introduce a part-time 7.5T weight restriction (6pm - 8am – 7 days a week).

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 A traffic regulation order was promoted in line with the committee decision of 28 November 2012.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A total of 124 objections were received within the objection period in relation to the proposed part-time 7.5T weight restriction order. Following explanatory correspondence, 12 of these objections have been withdrawn. 121 of the objections are of identical text along with 3 other individual objections.
- 4.2 The closing date for objections was 27 December 2012, however, 15 objections were received between 15 - 22 January 2012. These objections were identical to the previous 121 identical objections. The objectors were advised that their objections were not valid in terms of the legislation, however, the contents of the objection would be presented to the Planning Committee.
- 4.3 The salient issues from the objections are summarised below:-
- The proposed TRO fails to address the environmental issues suffered by local residents, namely; noise, vibration and damage to the drainage.
 - The proposed TRO does not include 24hrs Saturday and Sunday as per the experimental order.
 - The road is heavily congested and is seen by HGV drivers as a shortcut where they do not adhere to the speed limit, creating a dangerous environment for other road users.

- 4.4 All objectors state a preference for a full-time ban on vehicles over 7.5T to be introduced 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.
- 4.5 Development Services responded to each objector advising that the proposed order reflected the Planning Committee decision of 28 November 2012 and the order represented the most appropriate balance between the environmental, economic and enforcement issues associated with the weight restriction.
- 4.6 The objectors were asked to formally withdraw their respective objections.
- 4.7 After explanatory correspondence, 12 objectors have withdrawn their objection.
- 4.8 The remaining objections have not been withdrawn and hence a Committee decision is required in accordance with paragraph 1.1

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The purpose of the proposed Order is to reduce the environmental impact of HGVs using Beancross Road on local residents, whilst being simple to sign and minimises the effect on the surrounding road network at peak times. It is also recognised that Beancross Road is an A-class road and performs an important role for the logistic sector operating from Grangemouth. The proposed TRO reflects the Planning Committee decision of 28 November 2012.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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Director of Development Services

Date: 25 January 2013

Contact Officer: Russell Steedman, Network Coordinator Tel: Ext 4830

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Falkirk Council (7.5T Part-time Weight Restriction)(A905, Beancross Road, Grangemouth) Order 2012
2. Letters of objection and explanatory correspondence

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers can contact Russell Steedman on ext 4830.