



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date:	6 September 2021
Reference number:	TR16.21
Title:	Heavy Goods Vehicle Restrictions, Ivinghoe Area
Relevant councillor(s):	Councillor Steve Broadbent, Cllr P Brazier, Cllr C Poll, Cllr D Town, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr D Blamires, Cllr A Bond, Cllr B Chapple, Cllr M Collins, Cllr J Ward
Author and/or contact officer:	Ricky Collymore, Technician Ricky.Collymore@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Aston Clinton & Bierton; Ivinghoe; Wing;
Recommendations:	To extend the proposed area of weight restriction to include the B440 and put this proposal to Statutory Consultation.
Reason for decision:	Objections raised during a Statutory Consultation had an alternative proposal for area of weight restriction, of which the objectors would support. The number of requests for the alternative proposal along with support for the original proposal were greater than the number of responses that disagreed with the proposal in its entirety.

1. Content of report

Village communities in the Ivinghoe area of east Buckinghamshire (east of the A418 and north of the A41) stated their lives are being negatively affected by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) passing through.

They were concerned about the effect on their homes and on other buildings in the area, and there are concerns about road safety and air quality. Following a detailed review of vehicles travelling in the Ivinghoe area, it is apparent that a proportion of HGVs are merely

passing through (rat-running through unsuitable roads) therefore, have no reason to be there.

To help ensure that HGVs keep to the most appropriate routes (i.e. the main A and B roads), the proposal is to introduce an area-wide 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit so that HGVs will only be permitted to only use the local network for access. This will help to reduce local impacts by removing unnecessary through-traffic whilst ensuring that local business can continue to operate (with buses, farm traffic and public service access retained).

The proposed weight limit restriction was put to Statutory Consultation on 7th May 2021 until 3rd June 2021. The Ivinghoe Freight Proposal Map (Appendix 5) shows the zone where a 7.5tonne weight restriction was originally proposed, giving access for local needs. There was a substantial response to the consultation from consultees whilst many agreed with the proposal presented, many responses disagreed with proposed area of weight restriction. A large percentage of those who disagreed with the proposed weight restriction area suggested that the eastern part of the proposed zone is extended to include the B440.

2. Other options considered

The options considered after the Statutory Consultation and their pros and cons can be found in the table below:

Option number	Description	Pros	Cons
1	Do nothing	There would be no further costs	Would be against the wishes of the majority of respondents, who may not have agreed with the proposed area of restriction, but supported a weight limit restriction zone in principle. Not to propose the weight restrictions would mean the continuation of unnecessary HGV traffic in the Ivinghoe area, with the adverse environmental issues such action entails.
2	introduce the advertised proposal	This would satisfy the residents in the smaller advertised area and implementation of the zone could begin. Local companies would still be able to use the B440 to transport goods in vehicles over 7.5t.	This would be against the wishes of C. Beds Council and parish councils and residents to the north east of the proposed zone.
3	undertake further engagement work with C Beds and the villages to the northeast of the current proposals and readvertise an extended proposal	This would satisfy the majority of respondents and is the recommended option	It will take longer to implement the project, and cost more. There will be a small number of local businesses affected having to make extended journeys to avoid the zone.
4	Something else		

3. Legal and financial implications

3.1 Buckinghamshire Council will continue to communicate with the neighbouring highway authorities in Hertfordshire and Central Bedfordshire as the original area proposed extended into parts of the Hertfordshire highway network. The amended

area proposed for the weight limit restriction will have an area that falls within the Central Bedfordshire highway network.

- 3.2 Communications will be maintained between highway departments and legal departments to ensure full and legal co-operation is in place in order to propose and potentially implement the restrictions of weight limit restriction zone.

4. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 4.1 Prior to the statutory consultation, two informal engagement exercises were undertaken with the first one being on a large scale including an exhibition. The purpose of which was to provide residents, businesses, and community representatives with information to facilitate constructive feedback. This helped shape the statutory consultation proposals put forward.

- 4.2 During this Statutory Consultation, many responses to the proposals were received from local councillors and Parish Councils. These comments are fully documented in Appendix A with the other emailed online survey responses to the consultation.

Councillor Philip Spicer (Eaton Bray Ward Councillor) as well as Billington, Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Parish Councils made representations that were against the proposal put forward in terms of the area proposed. They expressed concerns of additional traffic being placed on B440 which runs through their villages. Their counter suggestion was that any weight restrictions proposed should include the B440.

A representation was received from Cllr Ian Dalgarno who is the portfolio holder for highways at Central Bedfordshire Council. He had concerns that the proposals if passed, would have a detrimental affect to the village of Billington. He believes that Buckinghamshire and Central Bedfordshire should work collaboratively to ensure that B440 is within the weight restriction zone which would resolve a lot of the objections he had received.

Pitstone Parish Council advised that they were in full support of the proposed weight restriction area during the Statutory Consultation as there would be a significant reduction of HGV traffic in Pitstone and Ivinghoe. Aston Clinton Parish Council were in support of the proposal and area proposed, however their response did contain suggestions on signage they believed would avoid any potential confusion for motorists (if the proposal are eventually agreed, these suggestions will be considered).

Councillor Sally Symington based in Hertfordshire also provided a response to the weight restriction proposals. She had generally received positive feedback from the villages of Gubblecote and Long Marston, however the residents made the point that

signage for any restrictions implemented, would have to very clear around the entry and exit for the northern end of the airfield site near Cheddington.

5. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 5.1 The statutory consultation on proposals to introduce a weight restriction zone on the highway network in the Ivinghoe area was undertaken between 7th May 2021 and 4th June 2021. The consultation was published on the Buckinghamshire Council website where there was also an online survey for responses. A public notice regarding the proposal was published in the local press and public notices were strategically placed within the affected areas. The statutory consultation proposals were also covered by a local BBC television news report.
- 5.2 Responses to the consultation were received in written format via letter, email and online survey responses.
- 5.3 In total, 1103 responses were received for the proposal for a weight restriction in the Ivinghoe area. 993 of these were responses made via the online survey and 110 responses were received via letter or email directly.
- 5.4 Out of 993 online responses received; 600 were in favour of the proposals, 32 were unsure on the proposals and 361 were against the proposals. Those in favour of the proposals stated that the proposals could improve the environment and traffic in their villages (mainly Ivinghoe and those villages within the zone). There were some responses that agreed with the proposals, however believed that including the B440 within the proposed weight restriction zone would be a better proposal.

Those against the proposal were mainly against the proposal due to their belief that the current proposal would potentially increase the HGV traffic in their area. The majority of those who disagreed with the proposals agreed with the intention behind the proposal but disagreed with area proposed. The majority of these responders wanted any proposal to include B440 within its restricted area.

- 5.5 Out 110 of the written responses received; 85 responses were against the proposal and 25 responses were in favour of the proposal.

As with the online comments many of those who objected to the proposal were in favour of a freight exclusion zone that included the B440 as part of it. Those against the proposals stated that their villages have enough HGV traffic and the roads are not suitable for any increase in traffic especially those transporting heavy goods.

Those in favour of the proposals put forward cited the potential improvement in their villages' environment and traffic with the proposed restriction.

- 5.6 With the number of objections received with counter suggestions to include the B440 in the proposals, Buckinghamshire Council will now investigate the possibility of including the B440 in its proposal to implement a weight restriction zone. This will require the proposal to be redrawn and go through the Statutory Consultation process.
- 5.7 Any extension of the proposed weight restriction area to include B440 will need the support of Central Bedfordshire Council. Communications will be undertaken to work with Central Bedfordshire Council to ensure full visibility of plans and any consultations. Legal permissions will have to be sought and obtained in order to effectively add B440 in the zone, but a response has been received from Central Bedfordshire's Highway Portfolio Holder during this consultation implying that they would be willing to work together on creating a zone to include B440.
- 5.8 All respondents who have provided an email address will be advised on the decision made and sent a link to this report.

6. Next steps and review

- 6.1 Following the decision being made, the next step is working with Hertfordshire Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to draw up the proposal for extending the proposals to include the B440 within the weight restriction area.

Once the proposals have been drawn up the plan is to present the amended proposals for Statutory Consultation. The results from the proposed statutory consultation will then be assessed and recommendations and decision will be made regarding the amended proposal.

7. Background papers

- 7.1 The Statutory Consultation details with the statutory documentation can be found online using this link:

[Ivinghoe Area Freight Zone Traffic Regulation Order consultation - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

8. Your questions and views

- 8.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.