

**Committee:** Cabinet Member Report

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Agenda item:** N/A

**Wards:** Colliers Wood

**Subject:** School Streets - Singlegate Primary School – change of Hours

**Lead officer:** Adrian Ash, Interim Director of Environment & Regeneration.

**Lead member:** Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Cabinet Member for Transport

**Forward Plan reference number:** N/A

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## Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member considers the issues detailed in this report and:

- A) Notes the result of the statutory consultation undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to change the school street hours of operation to reflect the school's core hours.

Restricted Roads	Existing Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only	Proposed Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only
North Gardens; South Gardens; Valley Gardens (between South Gardens & No 5 Valley Gardens)	8.00 – 9.15 am 2.00 – 3.15 pm	8.00 - 9.15 am 2.30 – 3.45 pm

- C. Agrees to the amendment of the existing TMO and the implementation of the change of school street operational hours to 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 3.45pm Mon-Fri term times only (this is in line with the schools' current core hours).
- D. Agrees to exercise his discretion not to hold a public inquiry on the consultation process.

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the outcome of the statutory consultation undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to change the school street hours of operation to reflect the school's core hours.
- 1.2 It seeks approval to proceed with amending the existing Traffic Management Order to reflect the new operational hours of 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 3.45pm Mon-Fri term times only.
- 1.3 Since the point of entry to the school street falls under TfL's jurisdiction i.e. TfL is the Traffic Authority, L B Merton had to seek prior approval and enter into a Section 101 Agreement that allowed the Council to undertake the required statutory consultation and publish the Traffic Management Order. The outcome of the consultation along with Cabinet Member approval would need to be reported to TfL and seek their further approval for amending the TMO and the introduction of the new hours.

## **2.0 DETAILS**

- 2.1 In 2019, there was Cabinet Member approval to implement Singlegate school street, previously known as School Safety Zone, but due to delays outside the Council's control, its implementation was delayed until January 2021.
- 2.2 On 09<sup>th</sup> February 2022, a report titled '*School Streets – EMTO results- Singlegate Primary School*' was submitted to Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency who agreed to make the School Street Experimental Order permanent and to undertake a statutory consultation to change the hours of operation to reflect the latest information provided by the school. Within the report however it was proposed to change the hours to 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 4.15pm but prior to start of the consultation further update was provided by the school which necessitated a further change; this now being 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 3.45pm.
- 2.3 The Permanent Order was made on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This TMO is based on the existing restrictions which now needs to be amended to reflect the proposed new hours.

## **3.0 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Following further Cabinet Member approval and with TfL's agreement, a statutory consultation was carried out between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to change the school street hours of operation to 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 3.45pm Mon-Fri term times only which would be in line with the schools' current core hours. No representations were received.
- 3.2 Newsletters were delivered to all those properties directly affected. The newsletter detailed the consultation process and the proposed change. A copy of the newsletter is attached in Appendix 1. All available information was also posted on the website. Street notices were erected on lamp columns and published in the local papers and the London Gazette.
- 3.3 The school and all the Ward Councillors were informed of the consultation and the proposed change.
- 3.4 All statutory bodies have been consulted and no objections have been raised.

## **4. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To ensure that the school street is effective, it is essential that the existing restrictions that currently fall short are changed to 8.00 – 9.15am and 2.30 – 3.45pm Mon-Fri term times only. It is, therefore, recommended that the existing TMO is amended and the new hours of school streets are implemented.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 5.1 To retain the existing restrictions. This, however, would do nothing to ensure that the operation of the school street is effective leaving the school street somewhat redundant.

## **6. TIMETABLE**

- 6.1 A newsletter detailing the Cabinet Member decision will be distributed to all consultees soon after a Cabinet Member decision is made and published. The permanent Traffic Management

Order will be amended and published soon after subject to TfL's final approval. Time frame is dependent on TfL's response time but officers are aiming for September 2022 new term.

6.2 Once approved, the signs will be amended to reflect the change in hours.

## **7. FINANCIAL RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 All the associated costs are covered by the TfL's allocation for school streets.

## **8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Subject to TfL's agreement, the Council will amend / make the Traffic Management Orders under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the experimental order. Alternatively, as the Traffic Authority, TfL could make the amended Order.

8.2 The Council has discretion as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry before deciding whether or not to make a traffic management order or to modify the published TMO. A public inquiry should be held where it would provide further information, which would assist the Council in reaching a decision.

8.3 The Council's powers to make Traffic Management Orders arise mainly under sections 6, 45, 46, 122 and 124 and schedules 1 and 9 of the RTRA 1984.

## **9. HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHENSION IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Council carries out careful consultation to ensure that all road users are given a fair opportunity to air their views and express their needs. The design of the scheme includes special consideration for the needs of people with blue badges, local residents, school children and businesses without prejudice toward charitable and religious facilities.

9.2 Bodies representing motorists, including commuters are included in the statutory consultation required for draft traffic management and similar orders published in the local paper and London Gazette.

9.3 The amended restrictions / improvements affect all sections of the community especially the young and assists in ensuring improved road environment and air quality for all road users and achieves the transport planning policies of the government, the Mayor for London and the Borough.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The risk of not changing the restrictions would mean that the school street would be ineffective.

## **12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 When determining the type of schemes to be designated on the highway, section 45(3) requires the Council to consider both the interests of traffic and those of the owners and occupiers of adjoining properties. In particular, the Council must have regard to: (a) the need for maintaining improved movement of traffic, (b) the need for maintaining reasonable access to premises, and (c) the need to reduce road collisions.
- 12.2 The restrictions minimises volume of traffic past the school gate which makes it safer and more environmental friendly for those attending the school, residents and visitors.

## **13. APPENDICES**

- 13.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report.

Appendix 1 - Newsletter

## SCHOOL STREET SINGLEGATE PRIMARY

Change of restriction period - July 2022



As you are aware, to improve safety, active travel and air quality, the Council implemented a school street in September 2020, which restricts motorised access in to the affected roads between the hours of 8.00 - 9.15 am & 2.00 - 3.15 pm, Mondays - Fridays during school term time only. Residents in the affected roads can gain vehicular access subject to registering for an exemption. **Please note that the contravention is against entering during these times, but drivers can leave at any time.**

The scheme was implemented under an Experimental Order. The statutory consultation concluded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. All feedback have been considered and a final decision has been made to make the scheme permanent. This means that the permanent Traffic Management Order has now been made.

We would like to thank all those who responded to the statutory consultation and all the affected residents. The report detailing the statutory consultation and the Cabinet Member decision can be viewed on the Council's website [www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

It is appreciated that there may be some inconvenience associated with the scheme, however, it is considered that the benefits of the scheme outweigh some of the inconveniences some residents / motorists may experience and that school street in conjunction with other initiatives will result in an overall change in behaviour and attitude toward the use of a motorised vehicle.

### Proposed changes to the restricted period

The Council has been informed of a change in the school's hours and to ensure that the school street remains effective, it is proposed to change the existing restrictions to reflect the new school hours.

Starting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, the Council will be undertaking a statutory consultation to change the hours of operation to 8.00 - 9.15 am & 2.30 - 3.45 pm school term time only.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

A Notice of the Council's intention to introduce the new operational hours for the school street will be published in a local newspaper (Wimbledon and Wandsworth Times) and the London Gazette. Notices will also be posted on lamp columns in the vicinity.

Representations against the proposals described in this Notice must be made in writing by emailing [trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk](mailto:trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk) or write to Environment & Regeneration Department, Future Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX no later than **12<sup>th</sup> August 2022**. Please quote reference **ES/SS/2022/Singlegate**. It is essential that your full name and postal address are provided within your representation.

Objections must relate only to the elements of the proposal that are subject to this statutory consultation (i.e. the proposed change to the hours). The Council is required to give weight to the nature and content of your representation and not necessarily the quantity. Your reasons are therefore important.

All representations along with officers' comments and recommendations will be presented in a report to the Cabinet Member for Transport and TfL. Please note that a response to any representation received will not be made until a final decision is made by the Cabinet Member and TfL.

All available information and updates are available on the Council's website [www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

### **COLLIERS WOOD WARD COUNCILLORS** (contact details of Ward Councillors are provided for information purposes only)

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