

East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 20 December 2023

Report by: Councillor Tim Hoskin, Executive Member
for Environmental Sustainability

Report title: Hertford Theatre Access Road - Traffic
Regulation Order

Ward affected: Hertford Bengoe

Summary

- To maintain vehicle access to theatre land and to minimise congestion on the highway, it will be necessary to protect the bell mouth access road through the introduction of double yellow line waiting restrictions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION:

- (A) To provide the authority to advertise a Traffic Regulation Order and enable the introduction of “no waiting at any time” (double yellow line) restrictions as shown in the below screen print and in Appendix A.**
- (B) To authorise the Head of Operations to consider objections received in line with paragraph 10.17.19 of the Constitution and, where appropriate, overrule any such objections that are considered minor in nature.**



1.0 Proposal

- 1.1 To maintain access for vehicles used in connection with the theatre's operation, it is necessary to introduce double yellow line (no waiting at any time) restrictions.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the Hertford theatre's redevelopment and expansion in terms of capacity, modifications have been introduced to the building footprint and service yard area.
- 2.2 The bell-mouth entrance area in front of the theatre, leading directly to the service yard and drop off area to the rear, side and front of the theatre, is of critical importance to the successful operation of the theatre.
- 2.3 This is the sole vehicle access point to the site and the area will be in frequent use, facilitating access for production cast and crew vehicles, disabled customer drop-off provision,

maintenance vehicles and access for the emergency services.

3.0 Reason

3.1 The redesign of the building included modification to the area immediately in front. It is essential that access is maintained at all times in the service road, and that the risk of obstructive parking is mitigated and managed by means of civil parking enforcement that is delivered by Civil Enforcement Officers.

4.0 Options

4.1 **Not Recommended** – Continue with the current arrangements. Do not introduce waiting restrictions in the outlined area. This will prevent Civil Enforcement Officers from issuing Penalty Charge Notices and not provide the necessary deterrence to motorists.

4.2 **Recommended** - Enable the advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order to maintain access and reduce the risk of obstructive parking that could harm the operation of the theatre and risk congestion on the highway.

5.0 Risks

5.1 By not protecting the bell-mouth area, this could lead to obstructive parking, preventing or delaying deliveries, adding additional pressure to the theatre programme and timings, causing traffic congestion along The Wash.

5.2 The full public consultation will allow any interested person to comment on the proposal. The EqIA document will be updated accordingly.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 Statutory consultees including the Police and Hertfordshire Highways will be consulted, followed by a full public consultation.

Community Safety

N/A

Data Protection

No

Equalities

The EqIA will be completed prior to consultation and updated following the consultation.

Environmental Sustainability

The presence of waiting restrictions will deter motorists from parking in front of the theatre and ensure vehicle access is maintained, thus reducing the likelihood of those vehicles being forced to abort their journey and retry later. Maintaining traffic flows will reduce the incidents of queuing. This will reduce congestion, unnecessary journeys and reduce carbon emissions.

Financial

The cost of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order and introducing road markings will be funded through the Theatre development budget. The total cost will not exceed £3,500. There are no additional Civil Enforcement Officer related costs as the area will be incorporated into an existing beat with a CEO operating in that capacity currently.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

The advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order is a statutory requirement and undertaken in the form of public consultation via Notices displayed close to the site, and the 'Notice of Intention' advertised in the local press, allowing any interested person to comment during the 21-day consultation period.

Specific Wards

Yes – Bengo

7.0 Background papers, appendices, and other relevant material

7.1 **Appendix A:** plan of proposed double yellow lines

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