

Notice of an Executive decision under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

The Leader of the Council considered and determined the following matter, which is a key decision, 8 June 2020

Emergency Active Travel Funding

The item gave approval to implement emergency traffic management measures on high streets and in town centres needed to reallocate road space to pedestrians and cyclists using Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders.

Representations from stakeholders and consultation responses for changes to Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders will be reported with recommendations for decisions to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport. Before making any Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders into Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders all representations will be reported to a public Decision Making Session of the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport for a decision on the permanent arrangements.

The Government has introduced emergency legislation under the Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020 and provided emergency transport funding to facilitate the return to work and gradual lifting of the COVID 19 restrictions. This is to implement measures to re-allocate road space supported by new statutory guidance under the Traffic Management Act 2004, including temporary amendments for Traffic Regulation Orders.

The funding being made available by Government through the Emergency Active Travel Fund will enable some of the measures already identified in the West Midlands Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan to be implemented in temporary form immediately and may also accelerate their permanent delivery in some cases.

The funding will also enable the introduction of temporary works to facilitate social distancing in town centres and near public transport hubs. Where the measures, through monitoring, have demonstrable longer-term environmental, road safety or public health benefits they have the potential to be introduced in more permanent form when funding allows.

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Due to the emergency nature of this funding, and the very short timeframes stipulated for the delivery of the projects, approval was sought as a matter of urgency in order that they can be implemented as soon as possible.

The Regulations require that 28 clear days' notice is given before a key decision is made. However, this was impracticable due to the COVID 19 partial lockdown.

Due to this, and in accordance with the Regulations, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board has been informed of this matter in writing.

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