

REPORT TO PLANNING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 11: Traffic Sensitive Street Review 2024: To consider the proposals and if you wish to raise any objections to the same.

Meeting Date 4th March 2024

Released to Council on 27th February 2024

Prepared by Town Clerk

The Town Council has been consulted on Hertfordshire County Councils proposed Traffic Sensitive Street review, they have said:

‘By way of background the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 allows a highway authority to designate certain streets (roads) as traffic sensitive, provided they meet certain criteria. The designation means that these roads are subject to a greater level of control when works or activities on these roads are proposed. For example, a works promoter is required to provide greater advanced warning of proposed works on a traffic sensitive street.

The designation highlights that works or activities on these roads are likely to be particularly disruptive to other highway users, but it does not mean that works or activities cannot take place during the traffic sensitive times. Once a designation is made it applies to all works and activities taking place in the street.

In 2022 the DfT amended the criteria for Traffic Sensitive Street with these changes coming into force on 3 April 2023. The amendments removed three criteria (‘is designated by the authority as part of its winter maintenance programme’; ‘is on a tourist route or within an area where major events take place’; and ‘is covered by a congestion charge’).

The updated requirements are that one or more of the following criteria should apply before an authority may designate a street as traffic sensitive.

1. the street is one on which at any time the authority estimates traffic flow to be greater than 500 vehicles per hour per lane of carriageway, disregarding bus or cycle lanes.
2. the street is a single carriageway two-way road, the carriageway of which is less than 6.5 metres wide, having a total traffic flow in both directions of not less than 600 vehicles per hour.
3. the street is one on which more than 25% of the traffic flow in both directions consists of heavy commercial vehicles.
4. the street is one on which the traffic flow in both directions includes more than eight buses per hour.

5. the street is within 100 metres of a critical signalised junction or a critical gyratory or roundabout system.
6. the street has a pedestrian flow of at least 1,300 people per hour, per metre width of footway.

We have now completed a comprehensive review of our Traffic Sensitive Network taking account of the amended criteria and I would like to give notice, in accordance with the “Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) Code of Practice for the co-ordination of street works and works for road purposes and related matters”, of our proposal to the designation of streets as traffic sensitive.

The proposed traffic sensitive streets meet criteria a, b (above) or both as detailed on the attached excel spreadsheet and follow the link for the maps.

[Traffic Sensitive Streets Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://hertsc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/inspector/index.html?appid=6cde7a9dec9f4ce39eb4e79c74e9f8d7)

For anyone not receiving an electronic version go to the maps at

<https://hertsc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/inspector/index.html?appid=6cde7a9dec9f4ce39eb4e79c74e9f8d7>

and to load information into spreadsheet download from this link.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshiretss

Based on these revised criteria, our traffic sensitive network will reduce by approximately 40%.

We have not changed the three traffic sensitive time periods as below, which are shown on the map and spreadsheet.

Period 1 Monday to Sunday	05:00 22:00	Red
Period 2 Monday to Sunday	06:00 20:00	Blue
Period 3 Monday to Friday	07:00 09:30 and 16:00 18:30	Green

In order to carry out its duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004 it is important to this authority to be aware of and where necessary, control activity on its proposed traffic sensitive network, to reduce disruption and congestion for the benefit of local residents, businesses and wider highway users. It is essential to note that it is not necessarily intended to prevent occupation during traffic sensitive times, but it implies that there is a high degree of importance to these particular streets and emphasise the need for all works promoters to

discuss their proposals for works on these streets in particular. HCC would encourage early communication for all proposed work on the revised traffic sensitive network.

I would be grateful if you could review our proposals and raise any objections in writing by Wednesday 27th March 2024'

For ease below is an extract from the map showing the Tring area:

