Statement of Reasons

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (7.5 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION) (A436 ADLESTROP BRIDGE NEAR STOW-ON-THE-WOLD) (COTSWOLD DISTRICT) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2020

Proposals
The introduction of an Experimental 7.5T Maximum Gross Weight Restriction without any exemptions on the bridge over the River Evenlode and the railway line near Adlestrop on the A436.

Reasons
Burford Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council are intending to introduce an experimental weight restriction on the A361 in Burford with the alternative route for HGVs being the A40 / A429 into Gloucestershire. However, there are concerns that this will lead to an increase in lorry traffic travelling via Sheep Street in Stow-on-the-Wold to gain access to the A429. This is especially true for southbound traffic which would no longer be able to use the A361. This would subsequently lead to both a further increase in congestion, particularly at the A429 / A435 / B4068 junction, and a decrease in air quality in the town.

Gloucestershire County Council is therefore intending to introduce an experimental weight restriction on the bridge over the railway near Adlestrop on the A436. This will have two main benefits. Firstly it will deter HGVs from using Sheep Street in Stow where the signalised junction with the A429 / A436 / B4068 already suffers from congestion resulting in poor air quality and secondly, it will help improve safety on the bridge itself. The bridge over the railway line is narrow and suffers from poor forward visibility for drivers because of the sloped approaches to the bridge and also being on a bend in the road. There is also a sub-standard, narrow footway on one side of the bridge which can leave pedestrians feeling vulnerable, particularly if two large vehicles pass each other whilst on the bridge.

It is therefore intended that the proposed experimental weight restriction in Gloucestershire will be used to monitor traffic flows and will remain in place as long as the Oxfordshire experimental Order is in force in Burford. This will give us the flexibility to react to any changes in traffic flows caused as a result of the Burford Order.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
The specific grounds which the County Council are using for the implementation of the proposed scheme as above are encompassed in the following sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:

- Section 1 (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other such road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- Section 1 (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).
- Section 1 (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

In addition, thorough consideration was given to the factors set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in proposing this Traffic Order.
Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016
All of the associated signing will be in accordance with traffic signs regulations and general
directions 2016.

Equality Act 2010
Thorough consideration was given to the equalities duty of the County Council under Section 149

Statutory Consultation
The Police, Ambulance Service, Fire Service, Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council, Road Haulage
Association and the Freight Transport Association have not raised any objections to the proposals.

There were some reservations about the proposals from Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council who
were concerned about the possible effects the proposal would have on extra HGVs in Moreton.
However, this situation will be monitored and before and after traffic surveys have / will be done in
order to gauge the effect of the proposed Experimental Order.