

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 23 March 2021

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

EDEN BRIDGES – INTRODUCTION OF WEIGHT LIMITS.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of representations received in response to the informal consultation to introduce weight restrictions on three bridges in the Eden area, those being Castle Bridge, Mallerstang; Rose Cottage Bridge, Hartley, and Broad Meadows Bridge, Melmerby.
- 1.2 The proposed changes have been requested by the Cumbria County Council Bridges team as a result of structural reviews that have recently been carried out.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval from members to proceed to statutory advertisement and consultation as referred to at paragraph 3.2 of this report, and then to bring the Order, into operation should there be no unresolved objections.
- 1.4 A copy of the Council's Statement of Reasons for proposing to introduce the Order for Castle Bridge is attached as Appendix 5.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 In considering any implications, members must consider if there are any adverse effects on the community and if the proposals impact on the Council's commitments for -
 - To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment
 - To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network

- 2.2 The measures contained in these proposals contribute to these commitments by continuing to ensure that the Council are able to provide an effective, efficient and safe Highway Network.
- 2.3 No significant equality implications have been identified at this stage, and the statutory processes provide the mechanisms for any Equality Issues to be raised and aired.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is being asked to consider the representations which have been received to the informal consultation for the following bridges: -
 - 3.1.1 Castle Bridge, Mallerstang;
 - 3.1.2 Rose Cottage Bridge, Hartley; and
 - 3.1.3 Broad Meadows Bridge, Melmerby..
- 3.2 In respect to Castle Bridge, Mallerstang - It is recommended that Members agree to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 33 tonnes maximum gross vehicle weight restriction on the U3420 over the full extent of Castle Bridge, Mallerstang (“the Order”).
- 3.3 Any unresolved representations received to the Order, referred to at paragraphs 3.2 above, will be reported back through the Local Committee process for determination. However, in the absence of any such representations, Local Committee is asked to resolve that the Order be brought into operation as advertised, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of this Report.
- 3.4 In respect to Rose Cottage Bridge, Hartley - Local Committee is asked to agree that no further action is recommended at this time but that condition of the bridge continues to be monitored.
- 3.5 In respect to Broad Meadows Bridge, Melmerby – Local Committee is asked to agree that no further action is recommended at this time but that condition of the bridge continues to be monitored.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following a request from the Council’s Bridges Section an informal consultation was carried out regarding the introduction of weight restrictions on three bridges in the Eden area, those being Castle Bridge; Rose Cottage Bridge and Broad Meadows Bridge. The informal consultation was carried out between 1st February and 21st February 2021, the details of which are detailed below.

- 4.2 Castle Bridge, Mallerstang - The proposed introduction of 33 tonnes maximum gross vehicle weight restriction is as a result of a request received from the Cumbria County Council Bridges Team.

A recent structural review has revealed that Castle Bridge located on the U3420 is too weak to carry vehicles over 33 tonnes.

The informal consultation received 1 correspondence which can be found in appendix 4, this response was regarding signage in the area therefore no objections to the proposal were received.

- 4.3 Rose Cottage Bridge, Hartley - The proposed introduction of 3 tonnes maximum gross vehicle weight limit is as a result of a request received from the Cumbria County Council Bridges Team.

- 4.4 A recent structural review has revealed that Rose Cottage Bridge located in Hartley adjacent to the U3079 is too weak to carry vehicles over 3 tonnes.

- 4.5 The Informal consultation received three correspondence which can be found in Appendix 4. This highlighted the resident's reliance on the bridge therefore it is decided that the weight capacity of the bridge should be revaluated before any further action is taken.

- 4.6 Rose Cottage Bridge serves a small number of private residences and by nature of its location it's unlikely to be subject to heavy vehicles. As such it is felt at this time that there is no risk to public safety from leaving it unrestricted whilst further assessment and consideration is given to its use.

- 4.7 Broad Meadows Bridge, Melmerby – The proposed introduction of 18 tonnes maximum gross vehicle weight limit is as a result of a request received from the Cumbria County Council Bridges Team.

A recent structural review has revealed that Broad Meadows Bridge located on the U3091 is too weak to carry vehicles over 18 tonnes.

- 4.8 The Informal consultation received three correspondence which can be found in Appendix 4. This highlighted usage of the bridge by residents and businesses in the area, therefore it is decided that the weight capacity of the bridge should be revaluated before any further action is taken.

- 4.9 Broad Meadows Bridge serves one dairy farm, and although the unclassified road continues beyond the farm it is unsurfaced and not suitable for vehicular traffic. The bridge is subject to regular farm traffic at present and is regularly inspected. At this time it is considered that there is no risk to public safety from leaving it unrestricted whilst further assessment and consideration is given to its use. The bridge will also continue to be inspected regularly.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members can agree to the Recommendations at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5

- 5.2 Members may choose not to agree to the Recommendations at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no costs to the Local Committee of implementing the proposal relating to recommendations 3.1 to 3.5, estimated at £1,500, which are to be funded from the central bridges capital maintenance budget. It is anticipated that majority of this estimate will come out of the 21/22 budget.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The County Council, as Traffic Authority, must take into consideration the matters contained in section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") detailed below, in considering whether it is expedient to agree to the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order detailed in this Report for the reason specified at sections 1(1)(a) and (b) of the 1984 Act, namely: -

(a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or

(b) for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road.

- 7.2 Under Section 122(2), the matters which must be taken into account in exercising that duty are: -

(a) The desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

(b) the effect on amenities of an area;

(c) the national air quality strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995;

(d) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and

(e) any other matters appearing to the authority to be relevant.

- 7.2 Local Committees may, pursuant to Part 2D, paragraph 5.1.2 g) of the Constitution, approve the making of traffic regulation orders in accordance with powers under Parts I, II and IV of the Road Traffic Regulation act 1984,

except for the making of Traffic Regulation Orders which involve the introduction for on-street residents permits, which are delegated to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure subject to a decision of the appropriate member body to introduce such charges.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The County Council, as traffic authority needs to constantly review and update traffic restrictions to suit changing circumstances and to aid traffic management. The proposals in this report help address some concerns identified through recent inspections to the bridges detailed above.

8.2 This report advises Local Committee of the proposal to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of the Order for Castle Bridge.

8.3 In the event of there being any unresolved representations arising from the formal advertisement and consultation process, a revised report will be brought back to the Local Committee for determination of those representations.

8.4 However, in the event that no such representations are received, Members are asked to resolve that the Order be brought into operation.

Angela Jones
Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

March 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Location Plan – Castle Bridge U3420

Appendix 2 – Location Plan – Rose Cottage Bridge, Hartley

Appendix 3 – Location Plan – Broad Meadows Bridge U3091

Appendix 4 – Informal Consultation – Table of responses

Appendix 5 – Statement of Reasons for proposing to introduce the Castle Bridge weight limit

Electoral Division(s):

Kirby Stephen
Alston and East Fellside

Executive Decision

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Key Decision

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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