

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive member – Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	3 March 2015
Title:	Trial of A-board licensing in Andover town centre
Reference:	6581
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That approval is given for a trial in Andover town centre for the licensing and regulation of A-boards on the public highway under Section 115 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 1.2. That the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment be given authority to arrange the particulars of the trial and the administrative framework that will support it and to review this as necessary throughout the trial period, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. The existing A-board policy includes an option for Hampshire district and borough councils to license boards on the public highway but to date none have chosen to adopt this. Consequently, the County Council's zero tolerance policy has remained in force albeit that enforcement is not actively pursued unless complaints have been received. This has been the case in Andover and in order to mitigate the issue and recognise the needs of the business community and balance these against the needs of highway users an alternative licensing arrangement is proposed as a trial, for the town centre of Andover only initially, which will be administered by the County Council.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. A number of authorities across the UK have adopted a self-regulation approach to A-boards within defined criteria. This was considered but rejected on the basis that the County Council, as highway authority, is

responsible for managing all activities that take place on the public highway and self-regulation would reduce the Councils control of the issue, thereby exposing highway users to more unauthorised obstacles on the highway and placing the Highway Authority at greater risk and potentially increased liability.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: none.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account comments made by Councillor Roy Perry (Leader of Hampshire County Council) at my Decision Day. I have also taken into account written comments received from Councillor David Drew (Andover Town Council), prior to the Decision Day.

Approved by:

Date:

3 March 2015

Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment

Councillor Seán Woodward