



Highways Permit Scheme

Accountable officer: Adrian Gray
Email address: charlotte.parfitt@hants.gov.uk
Department: Economy, Transport and Environment
Date of assessment: 05/09/2018

Description of current service/policy

The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 provides utility companies with legal rights to place and maintain their apparatus in the public highway. The County Council, as the Highway Authority, has legal duties to coordinate works on the highway to minimise traffic congestion, protect the highway structure and protect the right for people to use the highway. It discharges this duty using a system of works notices whereby organisations provide advance information of their intention to work providing an opportunity for the County Council to impose conditions (e.g. time constraints) and to coordinate works with other planned activity in order to minimise disruption for road users.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The County Council proposes a Permit Scheme to replace the existing Noticing System. Under a Permit Scheme, utility companies and other works promoters must obtain permission (a permit) prior to undertaking planned works. The County Council can set conditions on granting permits. Such conditions relate to the timing of the works and other general requirements relating to site safety and minimising congestion. A charge is made for processing a permit application reflecting the additional time needed to consider an application. Minor and emergency work on minor roads will not be charged for. All the neighbouring Authorities are operating permit schemes except for Portsmouth City Council.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Consultation on the Highways Permit Scheme was carried out in accordance with “The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007”. Statutory consultees included; those who have executed works on the public highway, the emergency services, relevant local Authorities and the Secretary of State. In addition, the County Council also consulted with parish councils, County Council works promoters and related practitioners. The scheme has been adjusted to reflect the comments received.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
<p>Age: Positive</p>	<p>The proposal will provide the County Council with additional control over streetworks, enabling improvements to coordination which have a positive impact on all road users and residents. In some cases, more proactive management of the local highway network to maximise the efficient use of road space may result in better outcomes from groups such as wheelchair users seeking to use footways. In addition, improved protection of the structure of streets and street apparatus could be of additional benefit to some elderly people and people with disabilities who are potentially at more risk of incidents arising from faulty footway surfaces.</p>	
<p>Disability: Positive</p>	<p>The proposal will provide the County Council with additional control over streetworks, enabling improvements to coordination which have a positive impact on all road users and residents. In some cases, more proactive management of the local highway network to maximise the efficient use of road space may result in better outcomes from groups such as wheelchair users seeking to use footways. In addition, improved protection of the structure of streets and street apparatus could be of additional benefit to some elderly people and people with disabilities who are potentially at more risk of incidents arising from faulty footway surfaces.</p>	

Sexual orientation:		
Neutral		
Race:		
Neutral		
Religion and belief:		
Neutral		
Gender reassignment:		
Neutral		
Gender:		
Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership:		
Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity:		
Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty:		
Neutral		
Rurality:		
Neutral		

Any other information