

REPORT FOR RESOLUTION

DATE: 26th January 2010
SUBJECT: Specimen Bus Lane Traffic Regulation Order
REPORT OF: The Lead Officer on behalf of the Advisory Board

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Joint Committee of a proposal to develop a specimen Traffic Regulation Order for civil bus lane enforcement which would be of benefit to councils and the motoring public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

- [i] Approves the proposal to commission the development of a specimen Traffic Regulation Order.
- [ii] Receives a further report at its meeting in June 2010.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REVENUE

Costs associated with this proposal have been included in the budget for 2010/11.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Civil bus lane enforcement in England came into force in 2006. Take up has been relatively low to date however it is anticipated that further councils are planning to implement in the future.
- 1.2 The Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee is well placed to commission development work that will be of mutual benefit to its member authorities and councils embarking on civil bus lane enforcement and the motoring public.
- 1.3 Feedback from legal officers on the Bus Lane Joint Committee Advisory Board and Officers responsible for civil bus lane enforcement within member authorities has identified that the development of a specimen Traffic Regulation Order would be helpful to councils.
- 1.4 The development of a specimen Traffic Regulation Order would help to promote consistency which would be helpful to motorists.
- 1.5 Whilst civil bus lane enforcement is currently restricted to England, the Welsh Assembly Government is currently consulting on arrangements for Wales and this piece of work would be equally beneficial for Welsh authorities.
- 1.6 In 2008, the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee undertook a similar piece of work in relation to specimen parking documentation and notices and received positive feedback. The development of a specimen bus lane Traffic Regulation Order would be a smaller piece of work but no less useful. For this reason, it is not anticipated that the costs of commissioning the independent review of the specimen Traffic Regulation Order will be excessive.

2. DEVELOPING THE SPECIMEN TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

- 1.7 The intention would be to await the results of a High Court Judgment in March in relation to an Oxfordshire case in order to take into account the findings in the case.
- 1.8 Initial work would be undertaken by a panel of officers from member authorities and then independent Advice would be sought.
- 1.9 The resulting specimen would be circulated to all member councils and those councils planning to commence civil bus lane enforcement and would be made available to the public on the PATROL web site.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- [i] That the Joint Committee approves the development of the specimen Traffic Regulation Order on behalf of member authorities.
- [ii] Receives a further report at its meeting in June 2010.