

Traffic Regulation Order - Electronic Consultation

A report by the Head of Network Management to the Highways Advisory Board on 8 July 2008

Introduction

1. This report provides information on the proposed traffic regulation order electronic consultation process that will allow the public to view and comment on Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) via the website.
2. KHS occasionally receives complaints from County Members and the general public when traffic regulation orders are being implemented stating that they were not adequately consulted through the process. It is clear that another method of reaching a greater number of Members and residents throughout Kent would be helpful. Therefore KHS proposes to use the KCC web site to reach these, and potentially other people.
3. All Local Highway Authorities must comply with statutory legislation when conveying information about TROs to the public. This legislation requires LHAs to advertise the TROs in a newspaper in the area in which any road or other place to which the order relates is situated. To ensure that KCC complies with this legislation, KHS uses a countywide newspaper known as the Saturday Observer and the Kent on Sunday newspapers supplied by the KOSmedia Group to advertise TROs in Kent. These newspapers are free papers and rely upon the public to pick them up at supermarkets, garages, etc. KOSMedia Group prints and distributes approximately 160,000 newspapers in Kent that cover all parts of Kent.
4. The population of Kent including Medway is over 1million people and approximately 80% of the population have Internet access. Therefore using the KCC web site as an additional means to advertise TROs would reach a greater number of residents of Kent provided it was avertedly sign posted.
5. The TRO Notice would appear on the web site on the same day as the Notice appears in the newspaper and would remain there for the full 21 day consultation period. There would be an opportunity for the public to make their observations or objections to the proposals by clicking in a box on the web page and typing in their reasons for either support or objection of the TRO. They will be advised of the date by which they must reply and if necessary what date their comments will be reported to the relevant Joint Transportation Board. This will reduce the amount of letters to and from officers.
6. The pages that will appear on the web site will be a front cover (giving information and directions of how to proceed), a copy of the Notice of

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proposals, the proposed Order and a statement of abput why the proposals are being advertised.

7. When the observations and/or objections have been considered and after the Joint Transport Board the same process will be used when making the Order.

Conclusion

8. Promoting the TRO information in a variety of media such as the newspapers, which is a statutory obligation, and the website will capture a wider audience in Kent and would benefit those members of the public who often use technology to keep up to date with current affairs within Kent County Council.
9. The Highways Advisory Board are asked to give their support to the introduction of a TRO Electronic Consultation via the KCC website.

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