

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	25 September 2018
Title:	Highways Permit Scheme
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the response to the consultation with utility companies and other key stakeholders, and approves the amended Permit Scheme, as attached to the supporting report, for adoption as the Hampshire County Permit Scheme in place of the existing Noticing System for managing street works in Hampshire from 1 April 2019.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives authority for a local Order to be made, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, using powers conferred by Section 33A of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (amended), in order to bring the proposed Highways Permit Scheme into force.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment to make minor amendments and updates to the Hampshire County Permit Scheme as necessary prior to the making of the Order, and in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, in order to finalise any details or matters of presentation.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The introduction of a Permit Scheme to replace the current Noticing System will bring benefits to road users in Hampshire through reduced congestion and adverse impacts on the highways asset as a result of more actively coordinated highways works. The Scheme is being designed with the following outcomes in mind:

- To proactively manage the local highway network to maximise the efficient use of road space;
- To improve the quality of works information and quality and compliance with relevant legislation, specifications and Codes of Practice;
- To improve the reliability and accuracy of activity information to the public;

- To protect the right of the public to use the highway in a lawful manner;
- To protect the structure of the street and any apparatus within it;
- To ensure parity of treatment for all activity promoters; and
- To manage road works and street works to support public transport reliability.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. It would be possible to retain the existing Noticing System for managing street works in Hampshire. This option is rejected as the current system does not provide the desired standard of performance and is less resilient. This option is also rejected on the basis that Government policy in respect of managing street works favours Permit Schemes, and retaining the existing Noticing System would make it more difficult for the County Council to implement Government regulation and take advantage of additional powers to manage street works. The Secretary of State for Transport has written to Hampshire County Council asking that it consider introducing a permit scheme by 31 March 2019, stating that the Government believes that operating a street works permit scheme is a far more effective way of proactively managing street and road works on the local road networks than operating under the older, more passive street works noticing system.

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: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

25 September 2018

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**