

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 April 2023Report by Director of EnvironmentTHE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (SCHOOLS STREETS)
(GIFFNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL) (PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES)
(TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2023**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to submit for approval of the Cabinet the making and confirmation of 'The East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets) (Giffnock Primary School) (Prohibition of Vehicles) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2023'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to note the contents of this report to approve and confirm the making of 'The East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets) (Giffnock Primary School) (Prohibition of Vehicles) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2023' and delegate to the Director of Environment the implementation of the Order in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council introduced a timed traffic restriction on Academy Road for a trial period of 18 months starting on 7th June 2021. This prohibited most vehicular traffic (with exemptions) from the road between 08:30-09:30 and 14:30-15:30 on school days.

4. On 1st December 2022, the Cabinet approved a request to Transport Scotland (subsequently granted) that the temporary restriction be extended for a further six months. The granting of this request was conditional on ERC's intention to introduce a permanent restriction on the same terms as the temporary restriction. It was also agreed that the ERC Roads and Transportation Service would develop a policy outlining formal criteria for School Streets for future consideration by the Cabinet.

REPORT

5. It is proposed to introduce a timed traffic restriction on Academy Road that will prohibit most vehicular traffic from the road between 08:30-09:30 and 14:30-15:30 on Mondays-Fridays during the school term on a permanent basis. Exemptions will be provided for residents of properties accessed via the restricted area (who will be issued with permits), Blue Badge holders, and the emergency services.

6. The proposals, if implemented, will improve access and the safe use of Academy Road for pedestrians and cyclists during school pick-up and drop-off times.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

7. The financial implications of making the Traffic Regulation Order will be met from the CWSR (Cycling, Walking, and Safer Routes) budget allocated by Transport Scotland.

8. There will be no requirement to install additional signage associated with the new permanent restriction. There will however be typical maintenance costs associated with renewal of the signage when required which is estimated to be in the region of approximately £100 every 8-10 years. This cost will be met from the annual signing maintenance budget.

CONSULTATION

9. A statutory consultation was carried out on the proposals between 9 December 2022 and 15 January 2023 in compliance with "The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Scotland Regulations 1999 (and subsequent amendments)". A Public Notice was published in the Evening Times newspaper, the Tell Me Scotland website and the Council's website informing of the consultation and advising where drawings showing the proposals could be viewed and where any representations or objections should be sent. Police Scotland, emergency services and other organisations including Elected Members for the Ward were notified of the consultation by email.

10. All properties with direct access to Academy Road and all properties on Orchard Park and St Catherine's Road were hand delivered a letter detailing the proposal and its implications for vehicular access along Academy Road during the restricted hours.

11. Two objections to the proposals were received. These related to the inconvenience the proposals would cause to non-exempt road users; the perceived arbitrariness of the reasoning for the proposals; congestion caused by parked vehicles on St Catherine's Road and Rosslea Drive during the school run; and abusive behaviour that had been targeted at those driving legitimately within the temporarily restricted area.

12. Following responses being sent to the two objectors and requests that they confirmed whether they wished to withdraw or maintain their objections, one objector confirmed that they wished to maintain their objection while no confirmation was received from the other.

13. In accordance with the statutory procedures, none of the objections require the Council to hold a Hearing by an Independent Reporter.

14. Police Scotland have confirmed that they have no objections to the proposal. In February 2023, the Police issued Fixed Penalty Notices for contravention of the restriction for the first time, having previously focused on educating road users. This led to several enquiries from road users who had been fined, though they could not be treated as formal objections as they were received after the end of the consultation period.

15. **Appendix 1** of this Report provides a summary of all objections and enquiries received, comments by the Roads Service, and the proposed resolution for each.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

16. The development of the temporary pilot School Street involved extensive dialogue with the Education department, members of the Giffnock Primary School community (including the Head Teacher and members of the Parent Council), and Police Scotland officers.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

17. The making of 'The East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets) (Giffnock Primary School) (Prohibition of Vehicles) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2023' will improve access and the safe use of Academy Road for pedestrians and cyclists during the times that children will be travelling to and from Giffnock Primary School.
18. Officers of the Roads and Transportation service will be required to dedicate time to the administration of the residential permit system on an ongoing basis.
19. Development of a policy outlining formal criteria for School Streets is ongoing. If this policy is approved by the Cabinet at a later date, it would be appropriate to reassess the suitability of Academy Road against any criteria so agreed.
20. An Equalities Fairness & Rights Impact Assessment (EFRIA) screening has been completed as part of these proposals. This has concluded that the proposal would have a positive impact on children attending Giffnock Primary School. Since Blue Badge holders would be exempt from the restriction, the impact on disabled people is considered neutral.
21. A Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) screening has been completed as part of these proposals and there is no need to complete a separate CCIA for this report.
22. There will be no property or IT implications arising from the proposals.

CONCLUSIONS

23. 'The East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets) (Giffnock Primary School) (Prohibition of Vehicles) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2023', if approved and introduced, will:
 - Make permanent the existing timed traffic restriction on Academy Road to achieve preventative road safety benefits for pedestrians and cyclists; in particular, children travelling to and from Giffnock Primary School.
24. It is concluded that the Cabinet should confirm and approve the making of the Order.

RECOMMENDATIONS

25. The Cabinet is asked to note the contents of this report to approve and confirm the making of 'The East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets) (Giffnock Primary School) (Prohibition of Vehicles) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2023' and delegate to the Director of Environment the implementation of the Order in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

Director of Environment

For further information contact Gillian McCarney, Head of Environment. E-mail address: Gillian.McCarney@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS/OBJECTIONSTHE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (SCHOOLS STREETS) (GIFFNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL) (PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2023

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>Summary of Objections received</u>	<u>Roads Service comments</u>	<u>Proposed Resolution</u>	<u>OBJECTION STATUS</u> Following notification of proposed resolution
Objection	<p>Drivers who are not exempt must plan trips around the restriction. It is more difficult to access Fenwick Rd via the priority junction at St Catherine's Rd than via the signal-controlled junction at Orchard Park.</p> <p>The selection of Academy Rd appears to be arbitrary. The objector questions whether similar traffic restrictions will be introduced at other schools in the area.</p> <p>St Catherine's Rd is congested by parked vehicles during the school run.</p>	<p>The inconvenience caused by the restriction would be limited (since it would operate for a total of two hours on school days only) and proportionate to the benefits of preventative road safety for school pupils.</p> <p>There are ample opportunities for drivers to access Fenwick Rd via the priority junction at St Catherine's Rd: the nearby Puffin crossing regularly interrupts traffic flow on Fenwick Rd, and the box junction marking helps to prevent obstruction of the junction. The nearby signalised junction of Fenwick Rd and Church Rd would remain accessible to any road user.</p>	<p>No changes to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order are recommended. However, members are asked to note the other actions that the Roads Service will take to alleviate the concerns of objectors.</p>	Maintained
Objection	<p>St Catherine's Rd and Rosslea Dr are congested by parked vehicles during the school run.</p> <p>Local understanding of the exemptions and permit system is low. The objector experienced abusive behaviour when driving legitimately on Academy Rd.</p> <p>The restriction does not improve public safety. The reason for promoting a permanent restriction is different from the reason for the temporary restriction.</p>	<p>Academy Rd was selected as the site of a pilot School Street due to particular local challenges in adhering to social distancing. While this consideration is no longer relevant, a permanent restriction would lead to preventative road safety benefits. ERC will also develop a policy outlining formal criteria for School Streets for future consideration by the Cabinet. It would be appropriate to reassess the suitability of Academy Rd against any criteria so agreed.</p> <p>The road markings on St Catherine's Rd, including those indicating the parking restrictions, require to be refurbished and we will arrange for this work to be carried out. We will also ask our parking enforcement team to focus their attention on this area with a view to</p>		Outstanding*

		<p>taking greater action against obstructive parking where possible. We will work with the school community to promote increased use of active travel and decreased use of cars for short trips to and from the school.</p> <p>We will deliver information about the TRO (if enacted) to all stakeholders. This material will clearly explain the restriction, including the exemptions, and emphasise that it may only be enforced by Police Scotland. We will ask the school to assist in promoting this message.</p>		
Enquiries received after objection period	<p>Queries as to whether the TTRO is still in effect.</p> <p>Requests for School Street permits for categories of road users who are not exempt per the TTRO or proposed TRO.</p> <p>Concern that visibility of the signage at the entrance to Academy Rd is poor, with the result that drivers do not have sufficient advance warning of the timed traffic restriction.</p>	<p>The TTRO remains in effect and will remain so until 6th June 2023.</p> <p>The Roads Service does not support expanding the list of road users who are exempt from the restriction. This list is already extensive and is considered to cover all categories of road user who legitimately require unrestricted access to the restricted area. Further expansion of the exemption list would dilute the effectiveness of the timed traffic restriction.</p> <p>The signage at the entrance to Academy Rd is of the size prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions and it is not possible to vary the size. The sign is located in the best possible position with regard to driver visibility and available footway widths. There are no additional prescribed advance warning signs available for this type of traffic restriction.</p>	<p>The signage at the entrance to Academy Rd will be equipped with lighting to ensure it is visible in the hours of darkness.</p>	Not applicable

Outstanding * Objector has not confirmed whether they wish to withdraw or maintain their objection after being sent a request to do so with an explanation for the restrictions proposed and subsequent amendments being made to the proposals taking into account all representations/objections received during the Consultation period.