



Enquiries to: John Harvey, Traffic Manager
Direct Line: 02380 833927
Email: john.harvey@southampton.gov.uk
Our Ref: Proposed Southampton Permit Scheme

Date: 17th April 2014

Dear Consultee,

FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL BY SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL TO OPERATE A PERMIT SCHEME ON THEIR HIGHWAY NETWORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PERMIT SCHEMES (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007

Introduction

In accordance with regulation 3 of The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007, I am pleased to invite your views on the attached draft of the Southampton Permit Scheme (SPS).

Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 introduced Permit Schemes as a new way of managing road works in the public highway and improving Highway Authorities' abilities to minimise disruption from these various activities. Permit schemes provide an alternative to the notification system under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA), whereby, instead of informing a Highway Authority about its intention to carry out works in its area, a Statutory Undertaker or road activities Promoter has to book time on the highway by obtaining a Permit from the Permit Authority (the Highway Authority). Under a Permit Scheme, the Highway Authority's activities, whether undertaken by itself, its partners or agents would be treated in exactly the same way with regard to co-ordination and setting of conditions as a Statutory Undertakers activities.

Highway Authorities may choose to implement a Permit Scheme on all or some of the roads under their control. The proposed SPS has been developed to apply to all roads and traffic sensitive streets throughout Southampton. This is the 'specified area' for the purposes of the permit regulations. Trunk roads and motorways for which the Highways Agency is the Highway Authority are not included in the proposed scheme.

Background

Southampton has in the region of 40,000 road works undertaken on its highway network each year. These essential road works interrupt the free flow of traffic and pavement users. It is therefore essential that any planned disruption must be co-ordinated as effectively as possible. Furthermore, it is the intention of the SPS to reduce the number of road works and to encourage work to be undertaken at times which avoid the peak travel time.

Greater co-ordination of road works will not only improve the availability of the highway network, but also provide opportunities for the more efficient organisation of the road works and therefore cost savings by road works Promoters.

Conditions Attached to Permits

Regarding conditions attached to Permits it is currently the intention of Southampton City Council to use the HAUC Permit Advice Note No. 2013/01; Guidance Note for the use of National Model Condition Text which is attached for reference.

Fees

The levels of fees that will be applied for applications for Provisional Advanced Authorisations, Permits and Permit Variations have been calculated using the Department for Transport's Permit Fees Guidance and Permit Fees Guidance Cost Matrix. They reflect the cost to Southampton City Council of operating the Permit Scheme in relation to Statutory Undertakers activities, over and above those costs incurred in managing the existing noticing system.

The approved schedule of fees will be issued with the Secretary of State's Order (once the Scheme has been agreed) for the implementation of the Permit Scheme. For convenience, the details of the provisional fee levels are provided in Appendix E of the scheme document.

The scheme also allows for the discounting and waiving of fees as permitted within the regulations.

How to respond

This consultation runs for a period of 8 weeks. Responses are requested to be sent by email to john.harvey@southampton.gov.uk

If it is not possible to email responses then they should be marked "Permit Scheme Consultation" and be sent to:

John Harvey
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The deadline for receipt of responses is no later than 5pm on the 12th June 2014. We cannot guarantee that responses received after this date will be considered.

All responses received by the 12th June 2014 will be taken into consideration and, if Southampton City Council considers it to be appropriate, amendments will be made to the draft Permit Scheme. When the Permit Scheme is finalised, it is expected that an application will be made to the Secretary of State for Transport for an Order enabling the implementation of the scheme.

Information provided in response to this consultation (including personal information) may be subject to publication or disclosure under the access to information regimes (e.g. the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you would like your response to be treated confidentially please indicate the reasons for this in your response.

Thank you for your time considering this document.

Yours faithfully

John Harvey
Traffic Manager