

Traffic Regulation Orders

The following information provides you with guidance on Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and Peterborough City Councils procedures, requirements and the consultation process.

Examples of TROs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking or loading restrictions, including loading bays, disabled bays, resident permit parking, limited waiting, bus stop clearways
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charges for car parks or Pay & Display bays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One way streets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No entry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibitions of types of vehicles (e.g. by weight or width, bus lanes, cycle lanes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited manoeuvres (e.g. No Right Turn)

TRO Procedures

Restrictions and prohibitions implemented by TROs have to go through a procedure of consultation to allow affected parties to comment, before the Order can legally take effect.

Who we consult:

The requirements are set out in The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations approved by Parliament. The most recent version was made in 1996, although some aspects of older versions are still relevant.

The statutory consultees, who must be consulted about proposed Traffic Orders, are:

The emergency services
The Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association.
public transport operators whose services would be directly affected
Other organisations (if any) representing persons likely to be affected by any provision in the order as the order making authority thinks it appropriate to consult
In addition we consult the residents/owners of properties which would be directly affected by the proposals

Informal consultation:

Depending upon the complexity and/or potential for objections, an informal consultation may be needed. For this we would write to any properties directly affected, and usually also to statutory consultees, to outline our initial proposals and why we are making them. This allows us to identify any major problems before we progress to the formal consultation stage, and amend our proposals accordingly.

Formal consultation:

We advertise the proposals by means of a Notice of Proposals published in a local newspaper (for consistency we always publish in a given newspaper on a set day of the week so people could, if they wished, check a particular day each week and see any notices published. At present we use the Herald & Post). A copy of the Notice is also posted on site and is sent to all consultees.

A copy of the Notice and the proposed Order, along with supporting documentation, is made available for public inspection at council offices as specified in the notice.

A consultation period of 21 days from the date of publication is allowed for anyone who wishes to comment on the proposals to do so in writing. All written comments will be taken into consideration when the final decision about how to proceed is taken by the Head of Transport & Engineering, on behalf of the Council.

Making the Order:

Small changes can be made to make the Order less restrictive than originally proposed as long as it is not a material difference from the original proposals. If the preferred option following consultation is a material change from what was proposed, then we have to carry out a new formal consultation to give people a chance to respond. In some cases, part of the original proposals may be made with some aspects subject to further consultation.

Once a decision has been reached, we firstly advise all those people who made written representations. Following this, assuming an Order is still to be made, we arrange for the Order to be legally sealed and then publish a Notice of Making of the Order in a newspaper and on site. A copy is also sent to all consultees, for information, along with an explanation of any changes. Once a Notice of Making is published, people have 6 weeks to take the matter to the High Court if they feel that the correct procedures were not followed in making the Order.

An Order can be made up to 2 years from the date of publishing the Notice of Proposals. If it takes any longer to resolve issues, then a new consultation must be carried out.

Experimental Orders:

From time to time, the Council may choose to make an Experimental Order. This does not require a formal consultation to be carried out, although we do carry out informal consultations with directly affected parties. An experimental Order must remain in place for at least 6 months, after which it can be removed, or varied if necessary. We have recently introduced the new Gladstone area one-way system by means of an Experimental Order. Whilst the scheme is in operation, anyone can make a written comment about the effects of the Order, and we will take account of these when considering whether any changes are necessary, or whether the Order should be made permanent.