Dartford, Wilmington and Joydens Wood.

1. Summary

1.1 This report details the locations in Dartford where yellow line waiting restrictions are required to deter obstruction and improve safety for road users. It also details the locations in Dartford where alterations are required on existing waiting restrictions. The report seeks approval to proceed to statutory consultation on the installation or alteration of these yellow lines.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Board notes the content of this report.

2.2 That the Board agree to proceed to statutory consultation on the installation or alteration of yellow lines at all locations detailed in Appendices A and B.

2.3 That the Board agree to consider any objections received in response to the statutory consultation.

3. Background and Discussion

3.1. Inconsiderate parking on the highway compromises road safety and traffic flow for all road users. Specifically it may cause three problems:-

(i) Physical obstruction; vehicles/cycles may not be able to progress along a road. Pedestrians, particularly wheelchair users and people with pushchairs/prams, may not be able to progress along a footway or cross a road or junction,

(ii) Visual Obstruction; parking may inhibit a road user’s view of other road users, and

(iii) Traffic congestion; parking may inhibit the free flow of traffic and result in unnecessary congestion.

3.2. Obstruction of a highway in Kent is a criminal offence that remains enforceable by the Police only. However, the Police have limited resources and rarely direct those resources to traffic and parking offences. Nevertheless, highway authorities have the power to install and enforce a variety of restrictions to manage kerb-side parking. Where on-street parking is causing an obstruction, the installation of waiting restrictions (yellow lines) have proved to be an effective deterrent.

3.3. Kent Highway Services rely on information from members of the public to determine locations where obstructive parking is occurring. An investigation is then carried out to assess whether waiting restrictions are a suitable remedy to the problem.
3.4. Whilst waiting restrictions have been successful in reducing obstructive parking, they are also unpopular with motorists as they reduce the available parking space on the highway. This is often problematic for residents who have no off-street parking and want to park directly outside their property. Businesses also oppose yellow line restrictions where they believe that custom will be affected.

3.5. The relevant County and Borough Members for each of the proposals have been consulted in order to determine their views and establish if there is community support for the proposed waiting restrictions, although responses to the consultation have not yet been received.

3.6. The statutory consultation process would allow members of the public to express their views on each of the proposals set out in Appendices A and B to this report. Any objections received would be reported back to this Joint Transportation Board for consideration before progressing with the implementation of any yellow lines.

4. Details of Exempt Information Category
   Not applicable

5. Appendices

   Appendix A - Proposed Waiting Restriction Plans – Borough of Dartford
   Appendix B - Proposed Waiting Restriction Details – Borough of Dartford

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The background papers pertaining to this report are held on KHS file WT/D/T09.

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