

Motion to the Council
Re A36 temporary closure and HGV movements

Officer Briefing Notes

Officers have discussed alternative routes to Bannerdown Road with Wiltshire's officers but currently it remains the most suitable route for traffic to Colerne.

Officers from both Councils are continuing to work together to reduce the impact of HGV traffic.

Other works on the programme, such as Rossiter Road and flood mitigation works to enable the Bath Quays development, repairs to North Parade etc. will all have an impact on traffic heading into the city from the A36. Works to repair Cleveland Bridge are also planned for 2014 and will need to be programmed carefully.

Councils share 'street works' information as part of the Highways and Utilities Committee Meetings (HAUC) and as a result the impact of the closure of the A36 will be considered when approving any works.

All utility companies, such as Gas and Water are informed (in advance) of the works and are required to take these into consideration when planning their own works. This minimises delays on the alternative traffic routes.

The Council will take a proactive approach to this closure and routing of HGVs by communicating traffic information and updates will minimise the risk of reputational damage. Completing the roll-out of permanent VMS signs would enable the Council to provide traffic information for motorists but the proposed position for the VMS sign that would be of particular benefit during this closure has yet to be agreed.

Monitoring

The Council has an extensive set of automatic traffic counters (ATC) in place at the following locations:

- a) A362 at Writhlington
- b) A367 at Fosse Way
- c) B3110 at Midford Road
- d) A36 at Warminster Road
- e) A37 at Farrington Gurney

The Highways Agency also has an ATC counter further south on the A36.

These counters are all "classifiers" which means that they can differentiate between different vehicle classifications including HGVs. Changes in HGV flows will therefore be monitored.

Both Wiltshire and Somerset Councils have been contacted with a request to work closely on monitoring the effect of the closure. Wiltshire has an extensive set of classifier ATCs in place at the following locations:

- a) A350 on the Semington diversion
- b) A363 between Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge
- c) A363 at Harley Wick between Bradford on Avon and Batheaston
- d) A350 at Chalford south of Westbury
- e) B3105 south east of Staverton

Further discussions with Wiltshire and Somerset Councils are expected to identify whether any further monitoring sites are required.

The above should ensure that both the current traffic patterns and those occurring during the closure will be monitored and enable a comprehensive report to be prepared.

We will also monitor the impact of the closure on road accident statistics and the A4 Air Quality Zone as part of the evaluation. This may provide useful information to support future negotiations with DFT and neighbouring Councils.

Heritage Services have confirmed that it will be possible to do some monitoring to establish the impact of the A36 closure as a lot of the coach borne business comes via Stonehenge. Most of the carriers are aware of the closure and the need to find alternative routes.