

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 21 January 2019

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Council Order for The East Sussex Permit Scheme.

**Purpose:** To bring into force recent amendments made by the South East Permit Scheme (SEPS), it is necessary to revise the Council Order to continue to operate our current Permit Scheme.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to approve the authorisation of a Council Order to bring into force amendments to the East Sussex Permit Scheme.

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## **1 Background Information**

1.1. The Traffic Management Act 2004 empowered Highway Authorities to operate a Permit Scheme, whereby all public utilities and statutory undertakers had to secure a permit before working in the public highway.

1.2. East Sussex County Council secured approval from the Secretary of State in July 2013 for a Permit Scheme, which began operation in November 2013. A Council Order was made in July 2015 in response to the Department for Transport deregulating permit schemes (Deregulation Act 2015) and which also made amendments for the purposes of clarity and uniformity for utility companies.

1.3. Since this time the current scheme has continued to operate successfully, improving planning by utility companies and their execution of necessary works in our highways, leading to reduced congestion.

1.4. East Sussex County Council is an active participant of the South East Permit Scheme (SEPS) which also includes authorities Brighton and Hove City Council and Surrey County Council.

1.5. In 2016 the SEPS management steering group identified the need for greater control of utility works on minor roads and the Permit Scheme was last updated and approved in July 2017 to reflect this.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 In order to gain greater control of managing traffic movement the principle of charging was introduced by the first Order enabling more stringent conditions to be placed on minor roads, such as residential streets.

2.2 In accordance with Regulation 5 (Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007) the highway Network Management team carried out a formal consultation with stakeholders during September 2018. No objections to the proposals were received.

2.3 This option to charge on all roads including residential roads requires the County Council's current permit scheme to be amended and an amended Council Order to be made if it is to continue to operate in parity with other SEPS members in the South East.

2.4 The amended Council Order and East Sussex Permit Scheme have been drafted and are included in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 The Lead Member is recommended to approve the amended Permit Scheme, authorise the re-issuing of the full scheme documentation and authorise the making of the Council Order to enable East Sussex County Council to effectively manage the network and continue to operate alongside SEPS members in the South East.

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS:

None

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

LTME 14 September 2015 - Council Order for the East Sussex Permit Scheme  
LTME 18 July 2017 – Council Order for the East Sussex Permit Scheme

