

## **Oxfordshire County Council temporary changes to traffic restrictions policy**

1. The following policy statements are intended to serve as guiding principles to aid rational decision making and support the Network Management Plan documentation which should be read alongside this policy document.
2. It should be noted that the temporary relaxation of the range of traffic restrictions will remain at the discretion of the Oxfordshire County Council Network Management service. Final discretion will be held by the Traffic Manager or in their absence the relevant Duty Officer/ Director or Emergency Planning representative.
3. This policy includes the relaxation of restrictions including low traffic neighbourhood restrictions, bus gates, bollards, school street restrictions, Oxford Zero Emission Zone and traffic filters. The types of vehicles affected is determined by the restrictions detailed in their relevant policy documents.
4. This policy does not include the relaxation of civil enforcement restrictions (e.g. double yellow lines, banned turns).
5. This policy supports the delivery of Oxfordshire County Council's corporate priorities and the councils Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 1**

Any temporary change to traffic restrictions will remain at the discretion of Oxfordshire County Council's Network Management team, who will use all the information and data available to them to make an informed decision on the type and duration of any temporary change to a traffic restriction. Prior to the relaxation of any restriction all other options will be considered. The relaxation of a restriction will be viewed as a last resort.

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 2**

Any temporary change to traffic restrictions will be monitored closely and will be in force for the shortest possible time and will relax restrictions for the lowest possible number of road users.

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 3**

The primary reasons why a traffic restriction may temporarily be relaxed are

- Where requested by a 'Blue Light' service to aid in a response to an incident they are handling.
- When there is a road closure which will cut a community off from the wider road network e.g. flooding, planned and emergency road closures, accident blocking route.
- Where special planned events with suitable legal order in place, however all practicable steps will be taken to prevent traffic restricted areas being impacted.

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 4**

Any temporary relaxation of traffic restrictions will be monitored closely and changes made as required if the need for the relaxation changes, and/or to deal with any unintended effects.

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 5**

For 'blue light' services who need to access an incident there will be a permanent relaxation of restrictions to enable the most expedient route to be taken. Routes involving traffic restrictions should not be taken unless responding to a 'live' incident.

### **Traffic Restrictions Policy 6**

Where practicable traffic restrictions will be enforced via automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.