

Question raised by the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) in advance of the meeting:

An update is requested on the delay between Traffic Regulation Orders being issued and the Borough Council installing signage and line markings.

Response of the Cabinet Member of Transformation and Infrastructure is set out below:

There are a number of processes that are involved with the consideration and installation of parking restrictions. Some of these relate to the permissions necessary and the oversight of the process through the Joint Transportation Board, and some relate to the legal and delivery on the ground processes.

A proposal received by the Council for changes to parking arrangements goes through Joint Transportation Board at least 3 times – prior to informal consultation, after informal consultation, seeking approval to proceed to formal consultation, and after formal consultation, seeking permission to implement.

Once permission to install changes has been agreed and ratified by the Cabinet Member, the Council can proceed to the installation processes.

It is important to note that the majority of works involve extensive road marking changes – a process that is weather dependant as it relies on a dry, unsalted road surface. This constrains the introduction of changes to late Spring, Summer and early Autumn and is reliant on the availability of contractors.

The Council has a long waiting list of locations on its' Parking Action Plan, and a number of locations where wider-ranging Parking Reviews are being undertaken. The changes to parking restrictions are delivered by a small team that are fully committed to introducing the reviews and the Parking Action Plan, and every effort is made to deliver schemes as quickly as possible within the resources available.

Given the nature of the decisions it is important that the council agree a scheme that works for the majority of people involved. The system used by the council, pre consultation, consultation and implementation seeks to achieve exactly that balance. Whilst it takes time it has proved to provide the best outcome in these situations.

The Cabinet Member will be present at the Parish Partnership Panel to respond to questions.