

Parking Partnership

Traffic Regulation Orders – General Policy

December 2022

Introduction & Background

Traffic Regulation Orders (or “TROs”) are legal documents developed by the traffic authority, or its agents such as the Parking Partnership, allowing the police and / or local authorities (e.g. Civil Enforcement Officers) to enforce various matters to do with the speed, movement, parking and other restrictions of pedestrians and vehicles, by law.

Legislation was changed in March 2015 to enable greater transparency and understanding of the purpose of parking policies, the reasons for putting in place TROs and an avenue to challenge whether existing TROs are required – by setting up a process for considering anything from minor to area-wide reviews.

A Review can be called where there is enough weight of support for doing so and the system for calling for a Review is described in Part 1 of this document, with the process for making a change described in Part 2.

The North Essex Parking Partnership Policy

As a part of the Network Management Duty, The North Essex Parking Partnership continues to develop and publish new iterations of its parking Strategy covering on- and off-street parking.

The current Strategy is set out in four levels, the Parking Enforcement Policy, Parking Operational Protocols, Discretionary, Cancellation and Permits Policy.

The parking strategy is not just about restricting parking. It covers all aspects of parking management in the best interests of road users, communities, and businesses.

The parking rules set out clear, fair and transparent enforcement rules and the levels of parking charges which will encourage the best use of the available parking space to support town centres, taking into consideration the cost of living, vibrancy of local shops and make it practical for people to park responsibly and go about their everyday lives.

Context

Making the best use of our current road network is important for both the local economy and society. Potential conflicts will need to be carefully handled. The new system recognises the responsibility of Councils to put in place parking strategies that reflect the needs of all road users. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities, and the needs of residents, shops and businesses.

Contents

Parking Partnership.....	1
Traffic Regulation Orders – General Policy.....	1
Introduction & Background.....	1
The North Essex Parking Partnership Policy.....	1
Context.....	1
Contents.....	2
Part 1 – Right to Challenge Parking Policies	3
Traffic Management Act 2004: Network Management Duty Guidance	3
Introduction & Background.....	3
Reviewing Parking Policy and Restrictions.....	3
Broad Principles	3
Minimum Threshold for the Number of Signatures for a Valid Petition	4
Minimum Requirements for a Valid Petition – Information.....	4
Management of Petitions – Inappropriate Reviews	4
Management of Petitions – Review of Parking Policies in Response to a Petition	4
Part 2 – New Parking Restrictions Policy	6
1: Introduction.....	6
2: The requirement for waiting, red line and red route restrictions	7
3. Arrangements for dealing with Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) requests	7
4. Implementing TROs once the Order is made	10
5: Types of TROs.....	10
6. ECC criteria for determining requests for new Parking Restrictions	10
Essex County Council safety and collision intervention criteria	10
Essex County Council congestion criteria	11
7. NEPP criteria for determining requests for new Parking Restrictions	11
Commuter parking in a residential street (preferred parking)	11
Short term invasion parking (outside schools, organisations, etc).	12
Provision of customer on-street parking for local shops and businesses.	13
Obstruction of driveway (difficulty getting vehicle on and off driveway).....	13
Parking around industrial areas	13
Parking on verges, pavements and green areas	13
Taxi Ranks.....	14
Loading and unloading provision.....	14
Junction Protection, Red Routes and Red Lines	14
8. Funding for TRO Schemes	15
9. Types of parking restriction and the responsible authority.....	16
10. Contact Details.....	16
Appendix 1.....	16
TRO flow chart – process.....	16
Appendix 2.....	17
Request for parking restriction information form	17
Appendix 3 Types of TROs	17
Permanent TROs	17
Temporary and Experimental TROs	17
Appendix 4.....	18
Functional Route Hierarchy	18
Appendix 5.....	19
Assessment System & Scoring Methodology	19

Part 1 – Right to Challenge Parking Policies

Traffic Management Act 2004: Network Management Duty Guidance

December 2016

Introduction & Background

Councils in England have a duty to manage the road network in order to reduce congestion and disruption, and the Traffic Management Act provides powers about the management relating to the enforcement of traffic restrictions.

When discharging Network Management duties in relation to parking, Councils that manage traffic must have regard to statutory guidance issued under the Traffic Management Act.

Reviewing Parking Policy and Restrictions

In order to have more of a say in the way parking management policy is developed and implemented, and to enable the Council to make parking respond to changes in local circumstances, the Government introduced powers to challenge decisions on parking restrictions.

This system makes it easier for local residents and businesses to challenge any parking arrangements if they think they are unfair, disproportionate or unreasonable. This could include the provision of parking, parking charges or the use of yellow lines.

National guidance provides detail on how the Government considers that the system should work and advises Councils on best practice. The system recommends that local authorities have a system which allows residents to raise petitions about particular parking restrictions in a particular place.

Broad Principles

Parking Bays and Red and Yellow lines are backed up by legal documents called Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO). Combinations of these lines and parking bays are often part of much wider schemes. Councils often review these schemes on a planned basis, and these reviews may amend or revoke orders that are no longer suitable for local conditions. When making any changes Councils consult as widely as is necessary to ensure that all of those affected by the orders have the opportunity to comment.

It is important that the local community can ask for a review if they believe that parking restrictions should be changed as a result of changed circumstances or if they believe that restrictions have had unintended consequences.

It is of course the right of any individual or business to contact their local authority about any aspect of parking in their area.

This document outlines the petition scheme which applies to the North Essex Parking Partnership Area (which is the parts of Essex covered by the Districts of Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Tendring and Uttlesford).

This petition scheme does not apply to requests for new parking restrictions which can be requested by individuals as set out in part 2 of this document.

NEPP has used the National Guidance in developing the scheme.

Minimum Threshold for the Number of Signatures for a Valid Petition

Anyone can start a petition, but petitions will only be considered under this policy if they are signed by people representing 50 addresses. Petitions can be signed by anyone affected by a parking restriction, for example by a local resident, by someone who owns or works in premises affected by a parking restriction.

The Partnership has the discretion to accept petitions supported by a smaller number of people if it is clear that the petition has only a very local effect (e.g. a residential cul de sac) and there is widespread support for the petition amongst those affected.

Minimum Requirements for a Valid Petition – Information

The petition should state:

- The location of the restriction (eg which part of which road)
- The current restriction which the petition seeks to challenge
- The alternative proposal (eg remove the restriction)

If the location or point for review is not clear to the Council, it will ask the lead petitioner to clarify; the Council realises that many petitioners will not be experts on the legal regulations relating to parking.

In cases where the information is not clear, the Council will assist petitioners to accurately define their challenge and ensure that the Council and petitioners have an agreed understanding of what aspects are being challenged.

The petition must be stated on each page. Each signatory must provide their full name and address.

Management of Petitions – Inappropriate Reviews

Councils have a responsibility to manage their resources to the best effect in performing all aspects of their duties, and to do this they must balance the resources necessary to review policies with their ongoing responsibilities.

Repeated or inappropriate petitions from vexatious individuals or groups can impact negatively on this and will therefore be disallowed.

The Council will not normally undertake a review based on a petition if it relates to:

- a new restriction which has been in place for less than six months.
- a restriction which has been reviewed during the previous year.
- an aspect of a parking restriction which applies across a wide area (or is part of a group of petitions which, taken together, seek to achieve this).

The Council will, however, be flexible, particularly where a policy may have been substantially affected by an external change since the last review (for instance, major housing or commercial developments or population shifts).

Management of Petitions – Review of Parking Policies in Response to a Petition

Once it has accepted a petition, the Council will ensure that the petitioner has a clear understanding of what aspects of its parking policies will be reviewed, and what that review will involve, including any requirement for public consultation.

Large or complex reviews could take a considerable time, and the Council will only be able to manage and progress schemes within available resources. The Council will ensure that the Lead petitioner has a clear understanding of the timescale, provide regular progress updates, and in particular provide details on the timing and nature of

any public consultation. The Lead petitioner will be the person responsible for communicating with other petitioners.

Following a review of a parking restriction, the Council will provide a clear report, reasons for the conclusions. **The lead petitioner will be provided with a copy of their report, and if the Council does not agree to the proposals in full, have an opportunity to consider and respond to the report before a final decision is made.**

Wherever possible, the Council will ensure that:

- Decisions on the local authority's response to a petition which has been accepted will be taken by the NEPP Committee.
- NEPP Joint Committee meets in public, and the petitioners will have the ability to watch the discussion.
- If the Lead Petitioner attends the meeting, the Chairman will normally allow Lead Petitioner to address the meeting.

In all cases, reports and decisions are published on the NEPP website, so that the community can see what areas of parking policy have been challenged, scrutinise the decisions of their local authority, and hold them to account.

Decisions will be published on the website, **north.parkingpartnership.org**

Part 2 – New Parking Restrictions Policy

1: Introduction

This Policy sets out how the North Essex Parking Partnership will deal with requests for new parking restrictions received from Parish or Town Councils and members of the public. This Policy does not deal with how NEPP will deal with requests made by the following, if the request is made on safety grounds or will be undertaken with funding provided by the local authority concerned (e.g. via a planning obligation):

- District Councils
- Essex County Council
- Parish or Town Councils

Essex County Council (ECC) has an Agreement with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) which gives NEPP the power to carry out on street parking enforcement and charging, maintaining relevant signs and lines and to make relevant traffic regulation orders (TRO) in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

This document sets out how the arrangements work and outlines the ECC and NEPP policies which will determine the implementation of future TRO schemes across the Partnership area.

A consistent approach to delivering new parking schemes is required to ensure that TROs across the Partnership meet the necessary regulations but also align to a standard that is reflected across Essex, including fully mapped TROs.

The aim is to demonstrate a fair and transparent approach throughout the Partnership areas when considering requests for new parking schemes and to ensure the Partnership's traffic management objectives are achieved. It is acknowledged that all requests for a parking restriction will have some benefits to the particular area. Requests may be submitted for a variety of reasons and depending on the circumstance will be considered under a scheme of priority to the Partnership.

The amount of funding available for new schemes is limited and this Policy provides the criteria, which if met, will enable a particular scheme to be considered for progression to the Partnership Joint Committee and therefore stand a chance of receiving adoption onto the forward programme of works, subject to statutory consultation.

Schemes that do not meet all the criteria can still be progressed and considered by the Joint Committee, but schemes with a higher priority will take precedence. Any approval of a scheme will be subject to funding being available.

Where a TRO application concerns private land, the landowner must give permission for the TRO to be implemented. In all cases apart from where the land is owned by the District or Parish Council, the permission must be provided in writing.

2: The requirement for waiting, red line and red route restrictions

Waiting restrictions requiring a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) may be proposed for a variety of reasons and generally these will fall into four categories:

- Safety - required in identified areas to reduce known personal injury collisions involving vehicles and pedestrians
- Congestion – required in situations where the flow of traffic on key routes is impaired by parked vehicles
- New development/improvement schemes – where restrictions are required to complement other measures such as traffic calming schemes or to assist with new developments such as new roads
- Local concerns where restrictions are required to manage commuter, shopper, or residents parking

Safety, Congestion and New development/improvement schemes are predominantly dealt with by Essex County Council according to their policies and assessment criteria. These are outlined on page 10 of this document.

Red line and red route restrictions may also be proposed where other restrictions are unsuitable but only on the grounds of Safety and Congestion as defined above.

There is an increasing demand across the Partnership area for parking restrictions to be implemented. As more vehicles are introduced onto the road network there is an ever-increasing competition for kerb space parking and members of the public and organisations may experience what they consider a parking problem and will seek to have some form of parking restriction implemented.

The aim is to avoid introducing unnecessary parking restrictions and to concentrate the limited funds available to the NEPP on the schemes which have the biggest benefits or where uncontrolled parking is causing a significant problem (whether to local residents or traffic) and major parking issues exist.

NEPP will only commence the process of introducing a parking restriction under this policy if the request is considered to be necessary and where it meets the criteria set out in this document.

3. Arrangements for dealing with Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) requests

The implementation of permanent TROs is subject to the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. These impose various legal requirements prior to making an order. From receiving an initial request to full completion of the TRO process can take between 12 to 18 months to complete, but in some instances may be longer.

The TRO process flow chart (see Appendix 1) details the arrangements.

All new requests for parking restrictions must be submitted using the [online service](http://north.parkingpartnership.org) at north.parkingpartnership.org or where this may not be accessible, further details can be found on **page 17** of this document.

Note: When requesting a new parking restriction, it is necessary to gain as much local support from people affected by the perceived parking problem before submitting the request. Gaining support from local Councillors and the parish, Town or City council is also advisable. Requests received from individuals will be considered as the view of only one person and not a view shared with a wider group unless there is clear evidence of wider support. Once the NEPP TRO team receives the request they will

initially review and consider the application on the grounds of safety and congestion in accordance with the ECC policy criteria.

Following this, the first stage is pre-feasibility work. One of the Team's Technicians will gather information related to the Application Request for a New Restriction. This may include site visits or, where appropriate, informal consultation with local stakeholders and their representatives such as residents, traders and community groups to gauge opinion on whether or not there is considered to be a parking issue that needs to be regulated.

For stage 2, for the purpose of the consultations with Local Interest Groups, a process is in place whereby a 50% response rate to all consultation letters sent will be required. Of the responses received, 50% must be in favour of the change (this will be 75% if it concerns a resident permit scheme). If the response rates meet these criteria a scheme will be costed, and a report will be submitted to the NEPP Joint Committee for consideration to provide the necessary funding to proceed with a proposed Traffic Regulation Order. If either criterion is not met, this will be reflected as a lack of support for the scheme and will result in the scheme being considered as low priority and may result in no further action being taken.

The outcome of a consultation may result in different levels of support in any individual road dependent on the location of the property to the initial parking problem. In this case it may be necessary for the Partnership to implement a scheme in part of the road and monitor the effects of any vehicle displacement.

The NEPP, regardless of the outcome of informal consultation, reserves the right to implement a scheme when it is deemed essential. For example, to address concerns of the emergency services specific traffic management needs or on a temporary basis.

The NEPP Technical Team will produce a report for each request received under this policy with a recommendation to accept or decline the proposal. The report will also include full details of any site visits and the outcome of any informal consultations, if conducted as part of the assessment.

The report will include a formal quantitative score (see **on page 19**) and qualitative details relating to social need. These reports will then be discussed with the relevant Parking Partnership lead officers and elected Member representative for a local decision on whether to proceed with the scheme.

All Schemes agreed locally to progress will then be presented to the Joint Committee to decide to commit the necessary funding to proceed with a proposed Traffic Regulation Order, subject to formal consultation.

A report will be created for the Joint Committee to consider and either Agree, Defer or Reject the scheme. An approximate cost of the scheme will also be provided to the committee to ensure transparency in the cost of delivering each scheme, alongside the assessment score. Funding options for the implementation of new parking restrictions are outlined **on page 15** onwards in this document

If funding is agreed a TRO will be drafted for initial review and refinement with the relevant Client Officer and Committee Member, prior to the statutory consultation that must be undertaken in accordance with *The Local Authorities Traffic Orders*

(Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 which will include some or all of the following, depending upon the scheme:

- The Highway Authority
- The Emergency Services
- Freight Transportation Association and Road Haulage Association
- Local public transport operators.

In addition to the statutory requirements, NEPP *may also choose* to obtain the views of local stakeholders such as:

- Local City/Borough/District Council, Parish Councils and County Councillors
- Local Highways Panels and similar organisations.

NEPP will agree with the Partner Authority each proposed TRO scheme is located in, who the key local stakeholders will be to ensure that consultations reach the correct parties. This will be confirmed in a stakeholder analysis for each scheme prior to all consultations.

If NEPP agrees to proceed with the TRO, the scheme must be advertised (including on site and at least one notice in the local press). NEPP will usually display notices in any roads that are affected and, if it is deemed appropriate, may deliver notices to key premises likely to be affected.

For at least 21 days from the start of the notice, the proposal and a statement of reasons for making the TRO can be viewed at a nominated council office during normal office hours or on the NEPP website.

Objections to the proposals and comments of support must be made, in writing, to the addresses specified in the Notice, or ideally submitted online via the relevant portal, during this period. Any person may object or offer support to a proposed TRO. If there are unresolved objections, which cannot be resolved by the Parking Partnership Group Manager, a report will be submitted to the Joint Committee. An Order may be made in part while other objections are being considered.

For the purpose of considering representations, a report may be made to the Joint Committee which will Approve or Reject the objections or may ask for an order to be

Modified. Modifications to the proposals resulting from objections could require further consultation.

This procedure can take many months to complete, and the advertising and legal fees can be substantial. For this reason, schemes requiring a TRO normally need to be included in the Annual Programme and cannot be carried out on an ad-hoc basis.

Following Committee approval, the TRO will be formally sealed and published in a local newspaper with an operational date. The signs and lines are then installed by our contractors, following which, the restrictions become enforceable.

4. Implementing TROs once the Order is made

For TROs agreed by and funded by ECC for restrictions to address issues of safety, congestion or new development ECC will either:

- Approach NEPP with a fully designed scheme ready for implementation; or
- Approach NEPP with a known issue to discuss and reach an agreed solution for design and implementation, including sufficient funding for a scheme to be developed and implemented. The NEPP TRO Team will then either:
- Implement the scheme (including design (as necessary); draft TRO; consult/advertise TRO; consider objections/seal TRO; install signs and lines); or
- Decline to undertake the work on the scheme, in which case ECC will commission this from elsewhere.

For TROs Agreed by and funded by the NEPP (or funded by an individual authority or other local panel) to address local concerns, social need, or strategic matters, the NEPP Technical Team will implement the scheme (or commission from other service providers).

5: Types of TROs

TROs can be introduced onto any road to which the public has access if Essex County Council is the traffic authority. The status of the route is immaterial and can include footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic, as well as other highways (such as main carriageways). The road does not have to be a highway or maintained by the highway authority; but if it is not, then the consent of the owner of the land will be required.

A TRO can include restrictions on the type of user, extent of road affected, and the period during which the TRO is effective. The different types of TROs (Permanent, Temporary, Experimental and Urgent) are explained on **page 16** onwards.

6. ECC criteria for determining requests for new Parking Restrictions

This section details the ECC criteria for considering requests for parking restrictions on safety and congestion grounds.

Essex County Council safety and collision intervention criteria

When considering the need for a restriction on safety grounds, ECC identifies 'Single Sites or 'Clusters' where there have been five or more Personal Injury Collisions (PICs) within a 50m radius of the requested area over a three-year period.

Safety Engineers study the collisions and identify any treatable patterns. Where a safety need is identified, the sites are prioritised for funding through the relevant Local Highways Panel.

Essex County Council congestion criteria

ECC has adopted a functional route hierarchy. This splits the road network into three classifications. Priority one (PR1) County Routes, priority two (PR2) County Routes (PR1 and PR2) and local roads.

PR1 roads have been identified as high volume traffic routes which are essential to the economy of Essex. PR2 routes perform an essential traffic management distributor function between the local network and the PR1 routes.

Delays to the movement of traffic on the PR1 and PR2 network will be minimised, and restrictions considered if required to achieve this aim.

Further detail on the functional route hierarchy is explained on **page 18** onwards.

7. NEPP criteria for determining requests for new Parking Restrictions

The NEPP will receive all parking restriction requests that do not meet the criteria of ECC safety and congestion policies, detailed above. Although these schemes do not meet the ECC criteria the Partnership may decide to implement parking restrictions to improve safety and sight lines, if the Partnership consider that the restriction will be beneficial to the area.

The NEPP is likely to receive requests for restrictions to deal with the following issues:

- Commuter parking in a residential street (preferred parking).
- Short term invasion parking (outside schools, organisations, etc.).
- Provision of customer on street parking for local shops and businesses.
- Obstruction of driveway (difficulty getting vehicle on and of driveway).
- Parking around industrial areas
- Parking on verges, pavements and green areas.

Historically many parking restrictions have been introduced with the aim of resolving particular local issues. However it should be remembered that the highway is intended for the purposes of passing and re-passing and that no right of parking exists.

Parking provision is therefore a concession and, however desirable, should not be at the expense of the purpose of the highway. Where it is safe and desirable parking can be allowed.

The NEPP will avoid introducing unnecessary parking restrictions to combat minor short stay invasion parking problems or to address a preferred parking situation. The allocated funds will be concentrated on essential schemes where major parking issues exist and have fully evidenced local support where necessary.

Commuter parking in a residential street (preferred parking)

The majority of residential estates were not designed for the level of car ownership or the volume of traffic using them today. Requests for parking restrictions to tackle a parking problem are sent to the Partnership in many forms. It is necessary to investigate and prioritise each request so that those areas in most need are given greater priority. The criteria set out below provides the basis for priority.

The preferred traffic management solution for parking issues in residential areas is the introduction of a residents parking scheme. This type of scheme will only allow residents

and their visitors to park within a designated area throughout the period of the restriction and exclude all other vehicles.

The criteria for prioritising requests for restrictions in residential areas is as follows:

- The parking by non-residents must be sufficiently severe to cause serious inconvenience to residents.
- Vehicles parked for the whole length of the road taking all available space for long periods of the day will be considered sufficiently severe.
- Any parking which is deemed as short-term invasion (school drop off / pick up etc.) will not necessarily be considered.
- The majority of residents have no off-street parking facilities available to them.

If the majority of properties have no off-street parking, then clearly any amount of parking by non-residents will have an impact on the available space for residents of the area.

If the majority of properties have off street parking, any parking on the highway will not impact on the available off-street parking for residents. If the resident with off-street parking finds they are in a position where they request to have a parking restriction implemented to prevent vehicles parking in the street but are happy for relatives of visitors to park in the area this will be considered as preferred parking. This will result in a recommendation to decline the requested scheme.

- The majority of residents are in favour of such a scheme.
- Any proposed parking scheme will require a consultation with all parties involved including residents of the street or streets affected. If there is no evidenced majority of 75% or above in support of the scheme it is highly unlikely that the scheme will progress.
- The introduction of a scheme would not cause unacceptable problems in adjacent roads. When surveying an area, it is essential that the displacement of vehicles does not cause unacceptable problems in adjacent roads. The restriction of vehicles from one location will not necessarily make the perceived problem go away but do no more than move the problem.
- If displacement parking is considered likely, there should be evidenced support for consider implementing restrictions to mitigate the risk of displacement parking in affected roads.
- The Partnership is satisfied that a reasonable level of enforcement can be maintained.

For every new restriction that is introduced a level of enforcement will be required.

This can have an effect on the amount of resource available and the cost of the overall enforcement account. Therefore, the future price structure of resident permits will need to reflect the overall operation.

Short term invasion parking (outside schools, organisations, etc).

Short term invasion parking is parking for the purpose of dropping of and picking up passengers or goods at a known organisation such as a school, convenience store etc. and will only be for short periods of time.

If this type of parking restriction request does not meet ECC's safety or congestion criteria it is highly unlikely that NEPP will propose the introduction of parking restrictions. This is classed overall as very low priority.

The enforcement of any restriction that is introduced to tackle a short-term parking issue requires a concentrated enforcement presence and is therefore not practical and cost effective.

Provision of customer on-street parking for local shops and businesses.

Designated areas of on street parking can be created to serve the needs of local businesses and the retail sector. To ensure these areas are not subjected to all day commuter parking NEPP would consider introducing a limited waiting scheme or an on-street payment parking scheme, most likely managed via a digital payment system.

The Partnership's preferred method of traffic management for this type of request is a pay and display scheme. Enforcement of a pay and display scheme is considered more effective and ensures the necessary turnover of parking space for customer availability. The by-product of a pay and display scheme is income which can help financially support the daily enforcement operation.

An important part of the criteria for assessing such a request would include the capital cost of implementing a pay and display scheme including revenue costs including cash collection and daily maintenance. Consultation with local traders and other local interest groups would also form part of the pre-feasibility work.

Obstruction of driveway (difficulty getting vehicle on and off driveway)

If a vehicle is parked across an approved dropped kerb and obstructing the driveway a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) can issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for obstruction of a dropped kerb, provided the vehicle is not parked in a designated parking place. Enforcement of this type will only take place if the resident of the property reports the obstruction to NEPP.

A white H-bar marking can be placed on the highway indicating the access to the driveway. This type of marking is advisory only. NEPP will offer this option to residents – it is optional and is chargeable to the customer. However, it will not be maintained by NEPP or ECC if it wears away or is removed as part of any highway works.

In all cases Essex Police is the responsible authority to deal with obstructions of the highway and have the necessary powers to remove vehicles that are considered to cause an obstruction.

Parking around industrial areas

There are areas within industrial sites where the workforce relies on long stay parking on the highway. Provided ECC confirm that the parking in these areas does not cause concerns on safety or congestion grounds then NEPP will consider this type of parking as acceptable. This will be a very low priority for any restrictions.

Cars parked in these types of area can act as a natural speed calming measure. Any introduction of parking restrictions in these types of areas will do no more than to potentially displace parking to an alternative location.

Parking on verges, pavements and green areas

There are many variations of this type of parking issue and each case will have to be taken on its individual merit.

Enforcement of verges, pavements and green areas can only be enforceable under the Traffic Management Act 2004 if the area is confirmed as public highway and is supported by a relevant TRO.

It is impractical to provide a TRO and the relevant signage for every instance of verge or pavement parking. This would result in unnecessary street furniture clutter and unacceptable administration costs.

Until such time legislation permits a blanket order for this type of issue or powers to enforce pavement parking where an obstruction is evident are given to Local Authorities, then NEPP advice will be for alternative solutions to be pursued as follows;

- If the parking is causing damage to the surface / green area and the area is public highway ECC to be approached to consider the introduction of a waiting restriction.
- Once it is determined who is responsible for the land in question preventative measures may be installed to prevent vehicles accessing the area (wooden posts, bollards etc.). ECC will be responsible for this decision and confirmation of ownership of land.
- If it is deemed obstruction of a footpath / pavement Essex Police can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice and remove the vehicle if necessary.
- If the land is being maintained by a local authority, and area is ornamental or is a mown area maintained to a high standard, the relevant licenses are in place, Notices installed under the Essex Act may be a practical alternative.

Taxi Ranks

Requests for taxi rank provision will be considered on their individual merits and will need to complement the wider aims and interests of:

- Local transport development plans.
- Planning criteria and new development (s106 funding).
- Maintain the safe free flow of traffic.
- Taxi associations.

Overall NEPP will prioritise the requests according to need and will rely highly on local input from Lead Officers and Member representatives.

Loading and unloading provision

To ensure the vitality of local business and retail, NEPP has a commitment to ensure that delivery and goods vehicles have the opportunity to deliver goods in suitable locations.

The introduction of loading and unloading provision will be considered on its individual merit but overall will have a high to medium priority to match the NEPP's objectives. Each request will need to complement the wider aims and interests of:

- Planning criteria and new development (s106 funding)
- Maintain the safe free flow of traffic.
- Local transport development plans.
- Local business and retail organisations

Junction Protection, Red Routes and Red Lines

Requests for junction protection through red or yellow lines will be considered on their individual merits however do not constitute a priority as safety-related issues should be dealt with by Essex County Council.

Where a need is identified or sufficient local support is evidenced, an application will be assessed and prioritised inline with other applications received. Any scheme must address the need to maintain safe free flow of traffic and be able to be enforced effectively.

8. Funding for TRO Schemes

ECC has a commitment to fund any schemes that meet the criteria of the ECC safety and congestion criteria and this is typically through the Local Highways Panels set up for each district.

ECC will not provide funding for all other parking related schemes and will therefore need to be either funded by the Parking Partnership account or from other avenues.

Funding can potentially be sourced from the following areas;

- The Parking Partnership account (budget is allocated by ECC according to the current Joint Partnership Agreement – schemes will need to meet NEPP policy criteria to receive funding and this will be subject to the availability of funds and agreement by the JPC).
- The Local Highway Panels. (Will have funding available for highway improvements. Any schemes would have to be presented to the local panel and funding for the scheme would have to be agreed by them and the ECC Cabinet Member. Limited scope within tight budgets).
- The borough / district / city and parish councils. (Local councils can contribute to any schemes that are considered beneficial to the local area that do not receive funding from NEPP)
- Pump / Prime fund (for self-financing schemes demonstrated by a business case).
- Section 106 funding for new developments. (Funding will be agreed at the planning development stage following consultation with NEPP)

The aim is for the Parking Partnership account to create sufficient surplus to be able to invest back into the TRO function.

As mentioned on **page 8** the NEPP Technical Team will produce a report for each request received with a recommendation to accept or decline the proposal. The report will include full details of site visits and informal consultation outcomes. These reports will then be discussed with the relevant Parking Partnership lead officers and elected Member representative for a local decision. A copy of the assessment form to be used is shown on **page 19** onwards.

Unless sufficient funding otherwise allows the number of TRO schemes per district/city to be funded from the Parking Partnership account and allocated TRO budget will be six schemes per year. This includes those that meet the 'fourth tier' category of restriction (being those not considered as socially necessary, such as junction protection or school entrance markings). Additional schemes may be approved where third-party funding is provided, or where a business case suggests that the scheme will self-finance, such as on-street payment parking or permit schemes.

The Joint Committee may decide to approve more schemes in one District and fewer in another if the net number of schemes remains the same.

This is to ensure that there is a balance between delivering new schemes and reviewing and maintaining existing ones within the available budget.

9. Types of parking restriction and the responsible authority

NEPP will be responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the following type of parking restriction:

- No waiting
- No Loading and unloading
- School Keep Clear
- Limited waiting
- On-street pay and display
- Resident Parking Schemes
- Taxi ranks
- Loading and goods vehicle bays
- Red Route
- Red Lines

ECC will continue to be responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the following type of parking restriction:

- On-street blue badge spaces
- Bus stops
- Pedestrian crossings

However, ECC may choose to delegate and fund the implementation of these restrictions to NEPP.

10. Contact Details

Address:

North Essex Parking Partnership
Technical Team

TRO enquiries
North Essex Parking Partnership
Technical Team
PO Box 5575
Colchester
CO1 9LT

Email:

techteam@colchester.gov.uk

Appendix 1

TRO flow chart – process

The flow chart is shown as [a separate document](#) for ease of reference.

Please note that the flow chart provides the usual route for applications to NEPP. In other circumstances NEPP may deal with schemes generated by or through ECC, including LHP schemes, or schemes of its own, including schemes determined under delegated powers.

Appendix 2

Request for parking restriction information form

An [online application](#) can be made by using the North Essex Parking Partnership website, however a paper application form may be provided where an applicant may require a reasonable adjustment due to disability or accessibility requirements.

Please note that the online application the usual route for applications to NEPP. In other circumstances NEPP may deal with schemes generated by or through ECC, including LHP schemes, or schemes of its own, including schemes determined under delegated powers, where an application may not be lodged.

Appendix 3 Types of TROs

Permanent TROs

A TRO can be permanent. There may be formal objections to Permanent TROs which must be addressed (and may ultimately be resolved at a Public Inquiry).

A Permanent TRO stays in place unless it is revoked or a new Order is introduced to replace/amend it.

Temporary and Experimental TROs

Occasionally temporary orders or experimental orders are introduced which require a slightly different process which still gives people an opportunity to put forward their views.

The requirements for consultation on temporary and experimental Orders are somewhat different from Permanent TROs.

A Temporary Traffic Order is made under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Temporary Orders: –

- may be used when works affecting the highway require short-term traffic restrictions;
- are usually short-term but may last up to a maximum of 18 months; and
- are generally used to allow for works, protect the public from danger, to conserve, or allow the public to better enjoy a route.

A Temporary Order under s16A can be made for special events such as cycle races, carnivals etc. These can introduce, suspend or change parking restrictions both on the road on which the event is taking place and/or other roads which are affected by the event. These Orders may be for up to three days but are limited to one occurrence in any calendar year for any length of road.

An Order made under s.14/16A is required to be advertised (for 14 days in the local press) as given in s.16(2)/16C(2) – to notify the public of such regulations by virtue of Part II of The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) procedure Regulations 1992, unless intention is given by Notice only, under Part III

An **Experimental Order** is like a Permanent TRO in that it is a legal document which imposes traffic and parking restrictions such as road closures, controlled parking and other parking regulations indicated by double or single yellow lines etc. The

Experimental Traffic Order can also be used to change the way existing restrictions function.

Experimental orders can be introduced quickly and are used to test the success of a scheme before deciding whether to make it permanent.

Experimental Orders: –

- are used in situations that need monitoring and reviewing.
- usually last no more than eighteen months before they are either abandoned, amended or made permanent.
- may be made for any purpose to which permanent TROs can be made as such experimental orders cannot be made for speed or parking places.

An Experimental Traffic Order is made under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Changes can be made during the first six months of the experimental period to any of the restrictions (except charges) if necessary, before the Council decides whether or not to continue with the changes brought in by the Experimental Order on a permanent basis.

It is not possible to lodge a formal objection to an Experimental TRO until it is in force. Once it is in force, objections may be made to the TRO being made permanent and these must be made within six months of the day that the Experimental Order comes into force.

If feedback or an objection is received during the period that suggests an immediate change to the experiment that change can be made and the experiment can then proceed.

If the Experimental TRO is changed, then objections may be made within six months of the day that it is changed.

Temporary and Experimental Orders may be made either by NEPP or ECC.

Appendix 4

Functional Route Hierarchy

The Traffic Management Strategy adopted by the County Council in 2005 identified and defined a Functional Route Hierarchy divided into County Routes and Local Roads.

The County Routes provide the main traffic distribution function in any area and give priority to motorised road users. The Traffic Management Strategy splits County Routes into Priority 1 and Priority 2.

Priority 1 County Routes may be inter-urban or connecting routes, radial feeder or town centre access routes. What is important is the need to maintain free flowing traffic movement on them due to the function they perform within the network. Priority 2 County Routes are all those County Routes which do not fall into the Priority 1 category.

The Traffic Management Strategy defines Local Roads as being all non-County Routes, further subdividing into developed (generally residential) roads and rural (unclassified routes linking developed areas) roads.

Local roads support a different balance of motorised and non-motorised road users. Account must be taken of the differences in form and function of local urban roads and local rural roads.

The following web site link provides access to a map of the Essex County road network which details the road network forming the Functional Route Hierarchy

<http://www.essexworkstraffweb.org.uk/>

Appendix 5

Assessment System & Scoring Methodology

The scoring methodology is shown in [a separate document](#) for ease of reference, available on the North Essex Parking Partnership website.

This methodology is designed to strengthen the assessment of applications that have evidenced local support.

Please note that the scoring methodology will usually be applied to assess applications to NEPP. In other circumstances NEPP may deal with schemes generated by or through ECC, including LHP schemes, or schemes of its own, including schemes determined under delegated powers, where this process may be dis-applied.