

STATEMENT OF REASONS

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL **(VARIOUS ROADS, NORTH SOMERSET)** **(PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ORDER 2021**

North Somerset Council has an ambitious plan to encourage Active Travel. Our draft Active Travel Strategy, in line with national policy, aims to increase the number of journeys undertaken by walking and cycling by at least 300% by 2030 with a vision statement of 'Making walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset.' This is supported by four key objectives:

- Deliver safe and frequent active travel
- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Drive local economic development
- Shape active travel neighbourhoods through planning

To support this Strategy, the intention is to address 'rat running' and inappropriate (especially HGV) use of our Rural Lanes network whilst continuing to allow essential motor vehicle access (e.g. to frontages and businesses). For example, residents, landowners, businesses, pubs and hospitality venues will continue to have motor vehicle access for all their needs and those of visitors, clients, employees, suppliers and customers. The resulting reduction in 'through traffic' will create a more pleasant, inviting and safer environment for Active Travel users whilst preserving the rural nature of the area and providing protection from increasing traffic growth resulting from future development pressures.

The council is proposing to restrict access by motor vehicles to the lanes between Clevedon, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell (see attached plan) in order to promote and enable greater Active Travel, particularly cycling and walking. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is anticipated to form the foundation of a wider 'Rural Lanes Active Travel Enhancement Scheme', funding for which has been obtained through the DfT Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2). In some locations, the "access only" restriction could be supported by future measures, including, but not limited to; reductions in speed limits, entrance gateways, traffic calming features and physical measures to close roads to motor vehicles – however, any such future measures would be the subject of additional consultations with local representatives, residents, businesses and other key stakeholders.

The council expects that the changes will:

- prevent the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road
- facilitate the passage on the roads of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians
- reduce the potential risk of HGV's causing damage to the road or buildings on the road

- avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road
- Preserve and improve the amenities of the area through which the roads run

Rob Thomson
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North Somerset Council

31st March 2021