

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Stratford on Avon Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 19 September 2007

**Report Title** B4451/07 Harbury Station Bridge - Temporary Weight Restriction

**Summary** This report informs Committee of the results of investigations into possible exemptions to the proposed temporary weight restriction.

**For further information please contact** Stephen O'Connor  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No

**Background Papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  Councillor B Stevens - informed of findings.  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members  .....

Cabinet Member  .....  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive  .....

Legal  I Marriott, L Arben - agreed

Finance  .....

Other Chief Officers  .....

- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Mr Moore - informed

**FINAL DECISION**

**YES** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Stratford on Avon Area Committee - 19 September 2007**

**B4451/07 Harbury Station Bridge -  
Temporary Weight Restriction**

**Report of the Strategic Director for  
Environment and Economy**

**Recommendation**

That Committee notes the results of the investigation into possible exemptions to the temporary weight restriction.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the Stratford Area Committee meeting on 16 May 2007, representations were made by a local farmer and contractor, Mr John Moore regarding the adverse effects on his operations of a weight restriction on Harbury Station Bridge.
- 1.2 It was resolved that “the possibility of exemptions for agricultural vehicles be examined”.
- 1.3 The issues were investigated by officers from the Legal Department and from Bridge Maintenance and Mr Moore provided details of the vehicles he used and the areas of land he worked upon.

**2 Legal Position**

- 2.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 states that an order may prohibit temporarily the use of a road subject to such conditions or exceptions as the Council considers necessary. Thus the inclusion of exemptions will be determined by structural implications for the bridge.

**3 Vehicle Movements**

- 3.1 Mr Moore confirmed the following likely vehicle usage:-
  - (i) Harvest time - 5 movements of 2 combines (16 T).
  - (ii) Other times – 5 tractors, 2 telehandlers, 2 rubber track crawlers, Tractor and trailer (24T)

- 3.2 Estimated requirement to move 750T of harvested crop. Regular movement of straw, seed, fertilizer and manure.
- 3.3 The areas of land worked by Mr Moore and requiring access over the bridge for harvested crops are:-
- (i) Fenny Compton 200 acres
  - (ii) Ladbroke 40 acres
  - (iii) Chapel Ascote 330 acres
  - (iv) Grandborough 160 acres
  - (v) Deppers Bridge 69 acres
  - (vi) In addition 176 acres of straw has to be transported from Green Hill to Chapel Ascote.
- 3.4 It is clear that these figures represent a very significant number of heavy vehicle movements.
- 3.5 Mr Moore is only one of a number of farmers in the area and it is likely that others would seek similar exemptions.

## **4 Enforcement**

- 4.1 Enforcement of weight limits is the responsibility of the police but it is not given a high priority.
- 4.2 Exemptions for a wide variety of vehicles would be extremely difficult to specify and enforce and would be seen as illogical by other transport providers.

## **5 Structural Issues**

- 5.1 The bridge has been assessed as having weak edges (7.5T capacity) and substandard parapets. Anything other than minimal use by heavy vehicles represents an unacceptable risk to the County Council. The possible use outlined above would involve a very significant use of heavy vehicles.

## **6 Conclusions**

- 6.1 It is considered that the only permitted exemption should be for combine harvesters working in the areas adjacent to the bridge. These will be few in number, be readily identifiable and because of their width will occupy both traffic lanes on the bridge, reducing the overall loading.

JOHN DEEGAN  
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5 September 2007