

## **Experimental Overnight HGV Enforcement and Clamping Trial 2017**

**To: Joint Transportation Board**

**By: Health, Parking and Community Safety Service**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Classification: For information**

**Ward: Across the Borough – Various**

### **Summary:**

Kent suffers from major issues because of HGV's parking in unsuitable locations. This causes danger, distress to residents and results in environmental waste in many locations. While Kent County Council (KCC) are pursuing a number of heavy good's vehicle (HGV) overnight parks in Kent it is clear that encouraging HGV's to use the parks will be key in finding a permanent solution. KCC, working with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and the Department for Transport (DfT) have designed a zonal scheme that could be expanded to other areas or a countywide scheme. It is advised that a decision on any expansion of the scheme needs to be taken in conjunction with the level and availability of HGV overnight HGV parking. By the introduction and monitoring of a pilot scheme, the implications of such controls will be determined.

A pilot scheme, which involves clamping on the first offence, has been in operation on the A20 between Charing and the Drivers roundabout, Ashford since 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Clamping trial also applies to the existing industrial estates that have overnight HGV parking bans in Ashford. This report summarises the trial so far.

### **Background**

1. There has been a growing problem with HGVs parking overnight in various locations in the borough for many years. This has resulted in a number of restrictions being put in place to prohibit the parking of HGVs overnight. The first ban prohibiting the parking of HGVs between 20.00 and 07.00 the following day was put in place at the Orbital Park and Ashford Business Park Sevington in 2003. ABC has piloted various enforcement initiatives to address this growing problem. These have included the appointment of Trans European collection agents, various multi-agency enforcement operations and a trial in 2015 involving the clamping of persistent evading HGVs.

2. All enforcement initiatives to date have had limited success. This Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and clamping trial has been developed by working with the DfT so that it can reflect the unique issues faced in the county. The DfT agreed to change the current clamping policy for HGV's so that a clamp can be introduced for first time offences.
3. The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order was written and sealed by KCC and came into effect on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 for eighteen months, prohibiting the overnight parking of HGV's along the A20 between Charing and the Drivers Roundabout Ashford and included existing Industrial Estates where there was already an overnight waiting ban. The prohibition also extends for some distance along adjoining roads off of the A20 to prevent displacement into adjacent villages.
4. KCC placed the necessary signage at the entrance points to the restricted zone. Some repeater signs were also placed in known locations affected by inconsiderate and dangerous parking along the A20.
5. The trial was preceded by a significant period of education and advertising. Warning notices in multiple languages were issued by our Civil Enforcement Officers to HGV's parked in areas where enforcement would be taking place.
6. A Statutory Instrument that restricted local authorities outside of London to not charge any more than a £40 release fee for each clamp has since been amended for the duration of this trial only. The DfT in December 2017 agreed to allow the release fee to be increased to £150.00 in order to cover the costs being incurred by ABC to remove each clamp

### **Summary of the trial to date.**

7. Our officers have continued to patrol and enforce on a regular basis on the A20 and in the four existing locations where an HGV overnight ban is in place. Our officers have also continued to monitor possible displacement HGV parking on other Industrial Estates and nearby residential areas.
8. The numbers of HGV's parking on the A20 and all other areas have reduced significantly and we are now finding an average of between 5 and 10 HGV's in contravention each night. We must note that Tuesday nights there are generally a higher volume than any other night of the week. Overall the numbers have reduced by at least 50%.
9. Weekend parking in all locations has been significantly reduced and there is an increased uptake in parking at the Ashford Truck Stop especially at weekends.
10. Displacement parking of HGV's into Industrial Estates continues but the numbers are comparable to before the commencement of the trial. The

numbers as before vary depending on circumstances such as problems at the Channel Tunnel or Calais or other unforeseen road congestion issues. Displacement parking into residential areas has not been a discernible problem although we have had isolated reports.

11. We continue to work closely with the clamping company, London Parking Solutions. Despite the numbers of HGV's reducing, we are still regularly clamping HGV's in all locations. The total clamped to date (31<sup>st</sup> May 2018) is 1345. Of which 578 have been on the A20.
12. To date there have been 20 appeals against the penalty charge notices. All appeals have been rejected except 2 where HGV's had broken down. None have been taken to the next stage of Tribunal. The number of HGV's issued a PCN more than once is 83, this represents 6% of the overall PCN's issued.
13. In addition to the enforcement pilot the following information should be noted:
  - a) A recent planning application, ref: 18/00098/AS, has been out for consultation that ended on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. This is requesting an increase in the Lorry Parking spaces at the Truckstop, Sevington.
  - b) The DfT have recently published 2 reports including Lorry Parking Measures and the results of the lorry parking facilities in England, links attached for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-operation-stack-plans-to-keep-kent-moving>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-survey-of-lorry-parking>

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