



**Delegated Approval for Traffic Regulation Order/
temporary fencing and closure of a park
PRIDE 2018**

To: (1) Steve Robinson Director of Highways	From: (1) Veronica Wong Highways Manager
(2) Fiona Worrall Director of Neighbourhood Services	

Date: 23/08/2018

MANCHESTER PRIDE BIG WEEKEND 2018

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, which allows you to approve the making of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, under s.16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and to allow the erection of temporary fences on key highways to monitor the number of crowds for safety reasons, I should be grateful if you would consider the following proposals, complete the approvals form and return it to me.
Veronica Wong Highways Manager Date 23rd August 2018

EITHER

*I approve the proposals described in the attached report for the reasons set out in the report.

OR

*I do not approve the proposals for the following reasons [please insert]

.....
 Steve Robinson Date
 Director Highways

EITHER

*I approve the proposals described in the attached report for the reasons set out in the report.

OR

~~*I do not approve the proposals for the following reasons [please insert]~~

~~.....
 Fiona Worrall Date
 Director of Neighbourhood Services~~

****Please delete as appropriate***

Distribution

Fiona Worrall	(Director of Neighbourhoods)
Kevin Gillham	(City Wide Support Highways Manager)
Danny Holden	(Parking Services)
Chrisa Tsompani	(Legal Services)
Steve Robinson	(Director of Highways)

TITLE **PRIDE 2018**

WARD(S) Manchester City

CONTACT Veronica Wong
OFFICER

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Manchester's Pride Big Weekend ("The Event") constitutes one of the City of Manchester's biggest annual events, which has taken place annually for over 27 years. The Event is organised by Manchester Pride, a charity who supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender life (LGBT) and campaigns for equality and against discrimination. It also fundraises for LGBT and HIV projects in Greater Manchester.

1.2 The 2017 Event will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend, from Friday 24th August till Monday 27th August 2018 (inclusive) and it comprises of a number of entertainment elements, the main of which are the Big Weekend, the Manchester Pride Parade and the Vigil. The Event attracts a substantial amount of visitors each year and therefore the Council is requested, as every year, facilitate it by restricting access to vehicles on a number of streets in the City Centre and surrounding the Event's area. The Council is also requested to temporarily restrict access to vehicles and pedestrians on Major Street, to avoid the likelihood of danger to the public. The Council has been finally requested to temporarily close Sackville Gardens for the Event's organisers to use it for entertainment purposes.

1.3 The details of the 2018 Event are set out below.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

2.1 Every year in order to facilitate the Event, Manchester City Council has been using its powers under s.16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in order to restrict access to a number of streets surrounding the Gay Village area and the city Centre, where the Big Parade takes place.

2.2 The Council also allows the closure of Sackville Gardens, which is a park owned and managed by the Council, by using its powers under s.12 of the Greater Manchester Act 1981, together with section 44(1) of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1890.

3.0 **PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 In order to facilitate Manchester Pride's The Big Weekend 2018, Manchester Pride has requested the Council:
- a) as a traffic authority, to use its powers under s.16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit vehicles to access the highways listed in Schedule 1 to this report, during the times and dates indicated in that Schedule, in order to facilitate the Event;
 - 3.2 b) to use its powers under s.16A of the Road Traffic regulation Act 1984 to prohibit pedestrians and vehicles to access the highways listed in Schedule 2 to this report, during the times and dates indicated in that Schedule;
 - 3.3 c) to suspend vehicular parking within the Event Area to ensure vehicles do not obstruct the highways or other emergency vehicles that need to be around the area;
 - 3.4 c) as a highway authority, to allow the temporary fencing of some of the streets (as shown on the plan attached to the Appendix of this Report) for safety reasons; and
 - 3.5 d) to use its powers under s.12 of the Greater Manchester Act 1981 to allow the temporary closure of Sackville gardens to the public, from Friday 24th August until 27th August 2018 (inclusive) and let Manchester Pride use the gardens for the purposes of the 2018 Event.

4.0 **LEGAL POSITION**

- 4.1 Highways - Temporary Traffic Regulation Order
- 4.2 **Under section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, a traffic authority can make an order to temporarily restrict or prohibit access to any of its roads, to vehicles or pedestrians, when it is satisfied it should do so and in order to facilitate an event.
- 4.2.1 Before the authority makes such an order, it should be satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable for the event to take place anywhere else than on its roads (s.16(3)).
 - 4.2.2 An order under this section may relate to the road on which the relevant event is to be held or on other road (s16A (5)).
 - 4.2.3 When making such an order the authority shall have regard to the safety and convenience of alternative routes suitable for the traffic affected by the order (s.16A (8)).
 - 4.2.4 Access to pedestrians (s.16(9)).
 - 4.2.5 An order under s.16A can only be operative for up to 3 days from the date it has been made, unless the Secretary of State's consent is acquired before the order is made, which will allow the order to be operative for a longer period (s.16B (1)).
- 4.3 Orders made under s.16A of the RTRA 1984 can suspend any statutory provisions already in place, for as long as the temporary orders are applicable.

4.3 **Parks**

s. 12 of the Greater Manchester Act 1981 (Local Act) together with s.44(1) of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1890, enable a local authority to close to the public any park or pleasure ground which is under its control in order to allow any show or any other public event.

- 4.3.1 The closure can take place for up to 6 consecutive days, including Sundays.
- 4.3.2 The admission to the said park or pleasure ground or other part of it may be either with or without payment, with the consent of the Local Authority or upon its direction.

5.0 **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

5.1 **Temporary Closure of Highways - Use of powers under s.16A of the RTRA 1984**

Manchester Pride Big Weekend is one of the City's major social events which takes place every year. The Event is the type of event which s.16A can be used for, subject to the following conditions being satisfied:

- a) the Council is satisfied that it is expedient to close the highways to facilitate the Event;
- b) The Event or parts of the Event cannot take place elsewhere than on the streets and
- c) There is always free access to pedestrians to premises situated or adjacent to the road, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from and only from the roads under closure.

5.2 The 2017 Event, as every year, is proposed to take place at the Gay Village Area ("The Event Area"), which comprises premises and the streets within the area defined by Portland Street, Princess Street, Whitworth Street and Minshull Street.

5.3 The 2017 Event is comprised by several elements, the main ones of which are the so called "Big Weekend", "Manchester Pride Parade" and "the Candlelit Vigil".

5.4 "The Big Weekend" is Manchester Pride's Flagship event and takes place in the Event Area. This event attracts thousands of visitors every year.

5.5 The "Manchester Pride Parade" takes place along the City Centre's streets and the Event Area (the streets and times are listed in Schedule 3 to this report) and includes over 100 entries equating to just over 3000 participants.

5.6 The "Candlelit Vigil" brings the community together for a time of quiet reflection and remembrance for those affected by HIV, hate crimes and persecution and other challenges and inequalities still dealt by LGBT people in Great Britain and abroad. This also takes place in the Event Area and more specifically in the Sackville Gardens.

- 5.7 Other activities of the Big Weekend comprise:
- Music/entertainment on two stages to be located on Sackville Street car park and a smaller stage in Sackville gardens,
 - The Expo, consisting of 43 marquees, which comprise of lifestyle and information stalls located in a covered area in Bloom Street Car park;
 - A Dance Arena to be located in the Bloom Street car park following the closure;
 - 50 Market stalls, to be located on Chorlton street;
 - 4 stalls of vintage fairground attractions to be located on Sackville Street;
 - Table top sale, 15 tables and 2 marquees to be located on Brazil Street;
 - Hourly programmed live performances, street theatre and circus acts throughout the site to be located on Sackville Street, Bloom Street, Chorlton Street, Richmond Street, Canal Street;
 - "Pop-up" acoustic stage to be located on Chorlton Street;
 - 13 food concessions located to be located on Sackville Street, Canal Street, Chorlton Street, Bloom Street, Abingdon Street and Sackville Gardens, all operating on a 24 hours basis
 - Production/Back of House area including 4 cabins and 6 service vehicles to be located along Major Street Between Sackville Street and Abingdon Street.
 - Box office and wristband exchange points, 10 cabins, to be located on Minshull Street, Chorlton Street, Whitworth Street and Sackville Street.
- 5.8 From the above, it is apparent that the Event is comprised of activities that take place both on private premises and on the streets. Some parts of the Event, like the Parade, or the food stalls and street entertainment, which are considered quite important for the Event to attract more visitors, cannot take place elsewhere than on the streets.
- 5.9 The Event organisers have considered other venues for the Event, like Heaton or Wythenshawe Park. However, no other venue is considered as suitable for the Event as the Event Area.
- 5.10 The Gay Village is considered the Event's home, because of its historical and political significance. The Gay Village is comprised of a number of night clubs and venues that participate in the Event and host additional shows and entertainment to people who hold valid tickets (normally sold by way of wristbands).
- 5.11 Apart from the historic significance of the Gay Village, the area is in the heart of the City Centre, in close proximity to Piccadilly train station, also close to various bus stops and Metrolink stations. Therefore, it can attract a big number of visitors, who can reach the city centre without the need to use cars and without creating traffic congestion in the City's streets.
- 5.12 Furthermore, the Gay Village together with the surrounding streets has the necessary capacity (55,000 people) to host such an event, which last year attracted over 40,000 people.

- 5.12 For security reasons, the Event organisers have requested the Council to allow the erection of temporary fences at the entry points of the streets that will be closed to vehicles in order to monitor the amount of people that will be at the Event Area at all times during the Event. This is to ensure that the number of visitors is always less than the maximum capacity of the Event Area. The locations have also been chosen in a way to allow speedy and organised evacuation, in case of emergencies. The plan of the location of the proposed temporary the fencing can be seen at the Appendix of this report.
- 5.13 For the Big Parade and because large vehicles will need to be in close proximity to the Event Area and mostly to the Bloom Street Car park where the Main Stage is to be placed, in order to provide electricity or all the necessary supplies and services for the Event to be successful, it is also considered necessary to restrict access to both pedestrians and vehicles to the streets listed under Schedule 2, provided that access to pedestrians to premises situated or adjacent to the road, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from and only from the roads is allowed at any time.
- 5.14 From the above, the Council should be satisfied that all the conditions under s.16A of the RTRA 1984 as summarised under paragraphs 4.2 and 5.1 are fulfilled and that in order to facilitate the Event, it is expedient to restrict access to:
- a) vehicles to the streets listed under Schedule 1 of this report;
 - b) vehicles and pedestrians to the streets listed under Schedule 2 of this report, provided that access to pedestrians to premises situated or adjacent to the road, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from and only from the roads is allowed at any time.
- 5.15 The Council should also be satisfied that for the reasons mentioned in paragraph 5.12 it is also expedient to allow the temporary fencing of the streets on the proposed locations, as shown on the plan attached to Appendix of this Report.
- 5.16 **Alternative routes**
The list of alternative routes for vehicles and pedestrians if the closures take place can be seen under Schedule 3 of this report.
- 6. Sackville Gardens**
The Council is the owner of Sackville Gardens. Under s.12 of the Greater Manchester Act 1981, it has the power to allow the closure of the park to allow Manchester Pride to use it as a venue for the purposes of the Event from Wednesday 22nd August 2018 (for load-in and build) until 20.00hrs on Monday 27th August 2018.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS AND ISSUES RAISED**

7.1 Manchester Pride has undertaken a number of consultations since early 2018 in order to consult and brief residents, businesses and the general public about the Event.

More specifically, two letters informing business along the streets where the Big Parade is planned to take place (see list of streets in Schedule 2 of this report) were sent early this year. The Organisers have not received any response to express concerns about the Parade.

The residents around the Event Area were also sent a letters to be briefed about the Event. There have been briefings in order to discuss the proposals with the residents. Again, no concerns have been expressed.

Finally, there have been briefings with the businesses within the Event Area, in 2018 again no concerns or objections to the proposals have been submitted to the Organisers or the Council.

8.0 **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 **EQUALITY IMPACT**

Every residential and commercial property in the area has been consulted and all comments received have been considered as explained above.

9.2 **HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.**

No specific human rights implications have been identified for the proposals.

10.0 **TIMESCALES**

10.1 The temporary traffic regulation order has to be submitted to the Secretary of State as soon as it is drafted and in time before the proposed for the Event dates.

11.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 *None*

12.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR KEY COUNCIL POLICIES**

12.1 Anti-Poverty Implications
- N/A

Equal Opportunities Implications

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users.

Environment Implications

- N/A

Employment Implications

- N/A

13.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the proposals outlined in this report be approved for the reasons set out above

Schedules

Schedule 1

List of Streets to be closed to vehicles to facilitate the Event

Schedule 2

List of Streets to be closed to pedestrians and vehicles to facilitate the Event

- a) for the Big Parade
- b) as a backstage

Appendix

1. Drawing of the Event Area, together with proposed locations for the erection of the temporary fencing