



**Committee and Date**

**Place Overview Committee**

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Item**

**Public**

**introducing a fee/charge for events on the highway involving Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's)**

**Responsible officer**

Gary Parton– Network Coordination and Compliance Manager

Gary.parton@shropshire.gov.uk

01743 258786

**1.0 Summary**

1.1 A proposal to consider introducing a reasonable / defensible fee for events that take place on the highway which involve either a temporary road closure or some other form of Temporary Traffic Regulation order such as a temporary rescind of parking or parking restrictions.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 For the committee to consider the proposal and offer recommendations on a revised draft policy and fee structure. Also to advise on a possible timeline to finalise a revised policy/fee structure with a view to presenting to Cabinet in 2022.

**REPORT**

**3.0 Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal**

3.1 An opportunity for a further income stream allowing assistance to fund and maintain a range of key services for Shropshire residents and those who visit the county.

3.2 Any revised charge/process would be new to regular and historical event organisers. There may be some consideration to ensuring revisions/fees are reasonable, defensible, pass Audit scrutiny and accurately reflect officers time and incurred costs.

3.3 Consideration of Town/Parish Council, community led and charitable events and an appropriate, reasonable process to reflect partnering initiatives, community engagement, Authority ethos and reputation.

**4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 Opportunity for increased income year on year.

4.2 Some community/charitable organisations may have limited budgets.

**5.0 Climate change appraisal**

5.1 None

## **6.0 Background**

- 6.1 The council has always supported events in the county, which are popular with residents and visitors. They promote active lifestyles and, in most cases, boost the local economy. However, we also have challenging financial savings to deliver in 2022/23 and future years with a large structural deficit. Some commercial organisers have been achieving healthy profits from events in recent years and it seems both reasonable and appropriate to consider and apply charges for the use of the council's highways as many other local authorities do.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

- 7.1 There is now an initiative to review the current process, look to increase income and introduce a reasoned/defendable charge where appropriate to do so.

Recommendations from the previous Place Overview Committee meeting, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, concluded that a fee structure should be implemented, and that this be applied to Commercial Organisations but not to 'not-for-profit' events such as Charity events and some community led events.

For a proposed fee "structure" it would be felt reasonable by Officers for any fee, at minimum, to cover / recoup the cost to the Authority of officers time involved in assessing and processing any application and also any legal/advertisement costs involved. This would also be able to demonstrate a reasoned and auditable approach to how a proposed fee is structured.

The assessment/processing and advertisement costs on this basis are equal to (on some occasions greater than) the costs involved in processing a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for works by Utility companies/other Statutory Undertakers. The fee for processing a TTRO for "works purposes" currently stands at £1,650.00 per application.

A benchmarking exercise with other Authorities already charging for this service evidenced some commonality in approach – i.e. Authority's implemented a 'sliding scale' of fee depending on a 'disruption effect' and whether an event would be affecting a traffic sensitive route; a classified road; a bus route; a pedestrianised zone as opposed to an event affecting unclassified roads; footways only; non traffic sensitive routes; cul-de-sacs.

For ease of application, and in order for Shropshire to remain competitive and attractive to event organisers, Officers would propose a fee of £1,240.00 for those events deemed to be in the higher of the sliding scale and £500.00 for those events deemed to be in the lower of the sliding scale.

The £1240.00 figure represents a 25% reduction/discount on the charge levied for TTRO's for 'works purposes' and is competitive to what neighbouring Authorities are charging event organisers for the same service. The £500.00 figure represents an approximate 60% reduction from the proposed £1240.00 figure and is deemed to reflect the minimal 'disruption effect' of restrictions on lower classed roads, whilst also not exceeding the charge levied by some neighbouring Authority's for the same service.

Officers would welcome further recommendations and guidance – with a view to finalising a revised policy/fee structure to be considered by Cabinet.

**List of background papers:**

**Initial briefing note March 2022  
Formula for recovery of road closure costs**

**Cabinet member: Dean Carroll**

**Local member N/A**

**Appendices**

- i. **Initial briefing note to Directors and Portfolio Holder**
- ii. **Example of potential fee structure based on named responsible officer time, legal and advertising costs currently used for TTRO's involving "works" on the highway.**