

## **Slough Borough Council Permit Scheme**

From 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Slough will be operating under The Traffic Management (Slough Borough Council) Permit Scheme Order 2014. This will help us to manage street and road works across the road network better. The scheme excludes the motorways, for which the Highways Agency is the Highway Authority.

### **Background**

Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) introduced permit schemes as a different way in which activities in the public highway could be managed to improve a highway authority's ability to minimise disruption from street and road works.

A permit scheme has the potential to improve management of all works on local road networks and significantly reduce unnecessary disruption to road users.

Within a permit scheme, anyone carrying out works in the road will legally need to apply to us for permission, in advance of the works. In emergencies, permits must be applied for within two hours of starting on site.

As an authority, we can choose to grant a permit, apply conditions to a granted permit or decline permission for work. Working without a valid permit or working in breach of conditions are offences which will normally result in the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Using these powers, we can improve the management of all works on the road network and therefore reduce unnecessary disruption to road users.

### **The Objectives of the Permit Scheme**

Slough Borough Council has a duty under Section 59 of NRSWA to co-ordinate works of all kinds. In addition, section 16 of the TMA, requires us to manage our road network, with a view to achieving, so far as may be reasonably practicable having regard to our other obligations, policies and objectives, the following overriding objectives :

- securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network;
- facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.

Slough Borough Council is committed to reducing congestion and managing the network more efficiently. The permit scheme will help the Council to make journey times more reliable and reduce delays. It will improve accessibility and provide better connectivity. This is consistent with Slough Borough Council's wider objectives, most notably relating to Economy and Skills but also those relevant to Community Safety, the Environment, and Community Cohesion. With reference to the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3), the Permit Scheme is designed :

- To ensure that the transport system helps Slough sustain its economic competitiveness and retain its position as an economic hub of the South East.
- To improve the journey experience of transport users across Slough's transport network

Slough is also committed to providing for people with a disability, maximising the safe and efficient use of roadspace, reducing accidents, maintaining asset integrity, reducing noise levels and mitigating all other impacts of works on the community. More widely, again with reference to the Local Transport Plan :

- 'Our transport objectives are determined by the ways in which we can make transport better so as to assist improvements in public services, business efficiency and quality of life for all' (SBC, LTP3, 2010)
- 'Our priority is on delivering better outcomes for Slough's residents, workers and visitors and overcoming the challenges faced by our communities" (ibid)

The Permit Scheme will contribute to the delivery of all of these objectives by improving the management of the road network through the better planning, scheduling and management of activities so as not to cause avoidable traffic disruption to any road user.

Co-ordination of activities through the Permit Scheme will enable differences between those competing for space or time in the street, including traffic, to be resolved in a positive and constructive way. The Permit scheme will also enable the Council to enhance the ability to demonstrate parity with all works promoters, including internal works.