

Statement of Reasons

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (TRAFFIC REGULATION; RESTRICTIONS ON WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING, STOPPING AND PARKING PLACES) AND (BUS LANES: 7-7-7 TRIAL) (NO. 1) EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2026 - ETRO/26/16

The introduction of the proposed measures is intended to encourage sustainable travel by public transport. Amendments to existing bus priority on the public transport corridor between London Road and Milton Road East will improve bus service reliability and positively impact bus journey times and journey time variability. The scheme is being introduced by way of Experimental Traffic Order made under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to allow the Council to modify or vary the scheme at short notice once in force, should circumstances require. On 15 August 2024 the Council approved proposals to use an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to trial bus lanes operating between 07:00 to 19:00, seven days a week. The proposed 18-month trial is intended to support the approved transport hierarchy, measures included in the City Mobility Plan and Our Future Streets: a circulation plan for Edinburgh. Edinburgh needs mobility options that by 2030 are carbon emission free, efficient, accessible and affordable. The more opportunity we have to make greener, safer, more sustainable choices in how we move around, the greater the chance we have to reduce the impact of climate change. The perception that bus travel is slow and unreliable is a major obstacle to encouraging more people to use public transport between the places they live, work and visit. We need to trial how the revised operating hours and associated restrictions and prohibitions will support safe sustainable travel. Measures will be monitored and evaluated during the first 6 months and considered for retention under separate traffic orders as appropriate.