

Public Update: Outcome of Consultation – Proposed Weight Limit Changes

Westmorland and Furness Council would like to thank all residents, stakeholders, and consultees who participated in the recent consultation regarding proposed changes to weight restrictions across various roads and bridges in the South Lakeland area.

Following a detailed review of the feedback received, we can confirm that the proposal to revoke existing weight limits on High Tenterfell, Queens Road, and Greenside will not be recommended to proceed at this time. The report to consider the restrictions and all consultation feedback will go to the next possible Locality Board for the decision in January 2026.

This decision reflects the need to:

- Consider the needs of the local community, operational needs of local businesses and the implications of diversion routes.
- Ensure any future changes mirror the former environmental weight limits but are supported by a revised set of exemptions that align with standardised and bespoke access provisions across the network.

The weight limits on High Tenterfell, Queens Road, and Greenside were initially suspended in June 2024 when Brigsteer Bridge and Underbarrow Bridge were closed to all traffic following concerns regarding their structural integrity. This suspension was necessary to provide a suitable diversion route for vehicles accessing and egressing the eastern approaches to the bridges.

These bridges were reopened in February 2025 following structural assessments carried out in collaboration with independent consultants. The assessments confirmed that the weight restriction must remain in place permanently and cannot be improved due to safety concerns. Both bridges are now open to vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes, as well as cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.

To facilitate the diversion of heavier vehicles, a signed alternative route remains in place via the unrestricted sections of the C5048 Underbarrow Road, C5062 Brigsteer Road, High Tenterfell, Queens Road, A5284 Windermere Road, B5284 Crook Road and C5059. Temporary suspensions of certain restrictions, including width and weight limits, remain in place to support this route. This includes the existing temporary suspension of the weight limits on High Tenterfell, Queens Road, and Greenside

The existing temporary suspension of weight limits on High Tenterfell, Queens Road, and Greenside will remain in place while the Council prepares a new proposal. It is expected that a

new proposal will be prepared in the new year and engagement with residents will start in the Spring 2026. This proposal will aim to:

- Update the existing weight limits to reflect standardised exemptions.
- Provide a suitable alternative route for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, now that Brigsteer Bridge and Underbarrow Bridge are permanently restricted to vehicles not exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight.

The Council will next apply a new Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in the coming weeks to maintain the diversion route for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, ensuring the needs of the local residents are met while continuing the protection of Brigsteer and Underbarrow bridges. Following this, we will advertise a proposal to make the restrictions permanent under a Traffic Regulation Order.

We appreciate your engagement throughout the consultation and will continue to keep residents informed of any future proposals or changes.