

Statement of Reasons

Westmorland and Furness Council (Various Roads, Eden and South Lakeland Locality Areas) (Appleby Horse Fair) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 20><

Westmorland and Furness Council proposes to make the above Order to support the safe and effective management of Appleby Horse Fair. The Fair is a nationally significant annual gathering that causes substantial and predictable pressure on the highway network each year. The Council, working in partnership with the Appleby Fair Multi Agency Strategic Co ordinating Group (MASCG), has a responsibility to ensure that movement on the highway is safe, orderly and appropriate for the character and capacity of affected roads.

The proposed 2026 Order brings together, updates and replaces the previous Eden Area Appleby Fair Traffic Regulation Order (2022) and the South Lakeland Area Appleby Fair Traffic Regulation Order (2011). This consolidation ensures that all relevant restrictions sit within a single, coherent, modern Order covering the full geographic extent of Appleby Fair traffic impacts. Consolidation enables clearer enforcement, improved public communication, and reduces the potential for conflict between historic Orders.

A number of new restrictions have also been proposed. These additions reflect learning from recent operational experience, updated safety assessments and specific requests from MASCG partners. They are designed to reduce the risk of conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and horses; improve emergency access and support the safe flow of traffic during the Fair period. These measures include, but are not limited to, new lengths of road where:

- waiting is prohibited during the Fair period;
- motor vehicles are prohibited except for access;
- motor vehicles, horse drawn vehicles and ridden or accompanied horses are prohibited during specified hours;
- one-way restrictions apply;
- temporary speed limits apply; and
- parking is available only for permit holders.

The Council considers that it is expedient to introduce the changes set out in the Order for the purposes stated in Section 1(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, specifically:

- a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- b) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).
- c) for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property.

The proposed measures support a long-established approach to managing the unique demands of Appleby Horse Fair. They will help ensure the safety of residents, visitors and road users; assist the Police and partner agencies in carrying out their duties; and maintain the efficient operation of the local highway network during this period of exceptional activity.