

**Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**  
**Report submitted by: Executive Director for Environment**  
**Date: 7 February 2013**

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
Preston Central South

**Proposed Prohibition of Waiting, Canute Street, Egbert Street and Great Hanover Street, Preston**

(Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' refer)

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**Executive Summary**

This report recommends the introduction of waiting restrictions on lengths of Canute Street, at the junctions of Great Hanover Street and Egbert Street in order to address concerns that parked vehicles are interfering with visibility both at the junctions and along the road and causing serious obstruction for access / egress to and from the adjacent business properties.

The intended purpose of the restrictions is to improve the visibility for drivers and to remove inconsiderate parking which is causing obstruction of the highway and impeding access to adjacent properties.

As a result of statutory consultation five objections and two indications of support have been received.

**Recommendation**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the proposed No Waiting at Any Time parking restrictions as shown on the plan at Appendix 'A' and set out in the schedule at Appendix 'B'.

**Background and Advice**

Complaints have been received from a business located on Canute Street that serious problems are being caused by vehicles being parked along both sides of Canute Street and Egbert Street and at the junction of Egbert Street and Great Hanover Street.

The complainant explains that they take deliveries and have customer collections continuously throughout the working week and require full access at these times. Over the last few years they have been finding it increasingly difficult to manoeuvre

delivery / collection vehicles into their compound due to obstruction by vehicles being left at various positions along the road.

Not only does this parking cause issues for the business but often vehicles also block the footway preventing safe pedestrian access along Canute Street.

Accident records show 2 incidents on Egbert Street in the last five years which resulted in two slight injuries. One incident involved a car reversing into a passing pedestrian and the other involved a car leaving a line of parked vehicles and colliding with another passing vehicle.

To address the issue of obstructive parking, No Waiting at Any Time restrictions are proposed to cover the 90 degree bend at the Canute Street / Egbert Street junction and on Great Hanover Street at its junction with Egbert Street.

Details of the proposals are shown on the plan attached at Appendix 'A' and the schedule of restrictions is provided at Appendix 'B'.

This arrangement formed the basis for the preliminary and formal consultations that were carried out.

## **Consultations**

Consultations with Preston City Council, emergency services, Bus operators, Ward Councillors and County Councillor were undertaken requesting their views on the proposal and no objections have been received.

### **Preliminary Consultation**

Prior to the formal consultation, notification that the County Council was considering introducing parking controls on Canute Street, Egbert and Great Hanover Street were sent to all affected properties on these roads.

This resulted in two responses being received, one from a business on Great Hanover Street and the other from HUMD solicitors on behalf of 14 businesses located on Canute Street, Egbert and Great Hanover Street.

### **Respondent One**

A business on Great Hanover Street highlights the fact that a current parking restriction on St Paul's Road, Preston to the north of Essex Street and the south of Great Hanover Street is being ignored resulting in illegal parking taking place. They advise that the west side of St Paul's Road has a single yellow line (albeit faded) which applies Monday to Saturday between 8am and 6pm, with the east side having double yellow lines.

Illegal parking at this location makes exit from Great Hanover Street on to St Paul's Road "very dangerous as traffic cannot be seen properly (if at all) from either direction."

If the intention is to restrict parking on Canute Street / Egbert Street and Great Hanover Street, the respondent feels it would be prudent to re-line the area on St Paul's Road or change to a double yellow line restriction (No Waiting At Any Time) and to have the area patrolled and the restrictions enforced.

#### Respondent Two

The letter from HUMD Solicitors acting on behalf of 14 of the businesses located in the vicinity of the proposed restrictions states that businesses have to cope with the declining economy and that the council making such proposals "would further limit our businesses to the extent that some may be pushed over their threshold into bankruptcy".

They advise that "the streets are used by our customers and staff once the car park is full. It is clearly not financially viable for customers and staff to pay for parking in these market conditions. Whilst most councils are trying to assist local businesses by providing free parking, these proposals are clearly at the detriment of local businesses, employers and employees".

#### Comment

With regard to the comments relating to the condition of the road markings and lack of enforcement on St Paul's Road raised by one of the businesses, this location has been added to the highways maintenance programme for the road markings to be re-furbished. Once this has been done enforcement will resume.

The objectors were informed that the proposal was to move forward and consultation and public advertisement of the measures involved in the formal Traffic Regulation Order process started.

#### **Formal Consultation**

The formal legal consultation and public advertisement for the proposals was undertaken between 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011, and 5 objections to the proposals and 2 indications of support were received.

The same letter of objection was received from five local businesses and the basis for their objection is set out below:

#### Objection 1

In their letter the objectors indicate that they are a well recognised scrap metal recycling company and have hundreds of customers visiting the site weekly. If customers cannot park outside then they will have nowhere to park and the company believe that they will lose business as a result.

They advise that they have been trading for 12 years and have never had any problems with parking on Canute Street. At the moment the business has 4 employees and they all own a vehicle and currently park outside the business premises. They plan to employ further staff as the business is growing, but regret to

say that if the business is affected they will have no option but to close and make their 4 employees redundant.

#### Objection 2

In their letter the objectors advise that they are a well recognised second hand car spares company that have hundreds of customers visiting the site on a daily basis including courier collections. If customers and couriers cannot park outside then they will have nowhere to park and the company believe that they will lose business as a result.

They have been trading for 3 years and never had any problems with parking on Canute Street. At the moment the business has 5 employees and they all own a vehicle and currently park outside the business premises. They plan to employ further staff as business is growing but regret to say that if the business is affected they will have no option but to close and make 5 employees redundant.

#### Objection 3

In their letter, the objector indicates that they are accident claims company and have clients coming to the office all the time. If they cannot park outside they will have nowhere to park and the company believe that they will lose business as a result. They have been trading for 15 years and never had any problems with parking on Canute Street. The objector advises that if the business is affected they will have no option but to close and make their seven employees redundant.

#### Objection 4

In their letter, the objector indicates that they are a car hire company with 40 cars and have clients coming to the office all the time. If they cannot park outside they will have nowhere to park and the company believe that they will lose business as a result.

They have been trading for 15 years and never had any problems with parking on Canute Street. If the business is affected they will have to close and make four people redundant.

#### Objection 5

In their letter, the objector indicates that they are an accident claims company and have clients coming to the office all the time. If they cannot park outside they will have nowhere to park and the company believe that they will lose business as a result.

They have been trading for 2 years and never had any problems with parking on Canute Street. If the business is affected they will have to close and make four people redundant.

## **Indications of Support**

Two representations have been submitted in response to the Public advertisement and consultation of the proposals offering their support for the measures proposed.

### **Letter from Preston City Council**

A letter was received from Preston City Council indicating their full support for the proposals and confirming that the ward councillors had been consulted.

### **Letter from Business on Canute Street**

A letter was received from the same company that originally raised concerns about the parking issues that were occurring on Canute Street, Egbert Street and Great Hanover Street and the comments submitted during the formal consultation re-iterate those made previously i.e. that serious problems are being caused by parking along both sides of Canute Street and Egbert Street.

In their letter the business owner indicates that they are having severe difficulties with access to their premises, particularly for larger delivery vehicles. This inconsiderate parking is causing problems for customer collections which they have throughout the working week. It is often very difficult to manoeuvre large delivery / collection vehicles into their depot due to obstruction by cars being parked at various locations on these roads. Whilst this parking causes significant issues for the business it is often, the case that some vehicles also actually block the footways preventing safe pedestrian movement along Canute Street and Egbert Street.

The business owner also makes the observation that the majority of the vehicles being parked on the street are in fact accident damaged vehicles which are taken out of adjacent premises each morning and left for the day and then returned indoors at close of business. This situation results in limited parking for other customers visiting local businesses and, therefore, all types of vehicles are being abandoned in the road and in front of their gates throughout the day.

In addition the business owner indicates that the parking problems have at least on one occasion resulted in a heated argument taking place between businesses and delivery men.

## **Comment**

The proposals to introduce parking controls on Canute Street, Egbert Street and at the junction with Great Hanover Street were put forward as a result of complaints made by a business located on Canute Street.

Several visits to the area revealed quite serious parking issues with inconsiderate parking taking place along both sides of the roads, which is causing severe difficulties, in particular for larger delivery vehicles servicing some of the businesses and for general traffic entering and leaving Canute Street and Egbert Street.

In addition it was noted that some vehicles were parked fully on the footways, confirming the original complainant's advice that there is also a safety issue for pedestrians.

Parking on Great Hanover Street close to Egbert Street was also restricting sightlines and affecting general traffic movement for drivers emerging from the junction.

To provide an illustration of the issues and problems that the parking on these roads is creating, photographs of the area are attached at Appendix 'C'.

### Response to Objections

The high levels of highway parking, in a small group of streets, is causing serious problems for other highway users who should not be prevented or obstructed from gaining access to their premises when making deliveries or collections.

Referring to figures contained within the letters of objection, 24 employees use a car and park on these roads, and when this is combined with the collective need of these businesses for parking by their customers, an unsustainable demand for parking on narrow sections of public highway is created.

The proposed restrictions only apply to the 90 degree bend where Canute Street and Egbert Street meet and are of the minimum length considered necessary to enable the safe manoeuvring of larger HGV's reversing into business accesses.

Similarly the proposed restrictions at the Egbert Street / Great Hanover Street Junction are the minimum required to improve driver visibility and road safety when negotiating the junction.

In view of the benefits that the provision of the proposed waiting restrictions will provide for improved access / egress and road safety, the proposals should be implemented.

### **Recommendation**

That the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be made as advertised.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

There are no significant risks associated with the implementation of the measures as proposed in the report now presented.

## **Finance**

The costs involved in providing the necessary signs and road markings to implement the proposals would be met from the Environment Directorate's Area South - Preston new signs and road markings budget at an estimated cost of £550.00

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Nil.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.