

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 April 2024

Report of the Director of Highways and Transport

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Preston City;

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancaster Road, Preston - Quality Bus Stop and Clearway

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

Consideration of various highway safety improvements, including the installation of a quality bus stop and clearway on Lancaster Road, Preston to which an objection has been received.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the installation of a quality bus stop and clearway on Lancaster Road, Preston as shown on the plan at Appendix 'A'. The markings will enhance cyclist awareness of potential conflicts with stationary buses, reducing the potential for conflicts and improving overall safety, especially for vulnerable users.

Detail

It is proposed to construct a quality bus stop on Lancaster Road, Preston, north of Tenterfield Street. The location was determined by the county council's Public Transport Team because of strong demand from passengers coming from the upgraded market area.

The purpose of this proposed order is to provide safe, vehicle free manoeuvring for buses to the bus boarding point and safer, more accessible boarding and disembarkation



for passengers. The intended layout will aim to improve road safety by reducing the potential for conflict and injury/accident between buses and cyclists whilst also ensuring that bus users can board and alight safely without obstructions.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Consultation Plan showing layout for Bus Stop/Clearway arrangement proposed on Lancaster Road, Preston

Consultations

Consultation was carried out in the form of an email (with plans) to county and district councillors, Lancashire Constabulary and local cycling groups. A letter-drop was also carried out on Lancaster Road to all affected residents and local businesses.

The bus stop and clearway were formally advertised between 13 January and 10 February 2023, to which one objection was received. It was hoped to resolve the concern raised by discussions but without success.

Objection

The objection received states:

"Your proposal for a bus stop and no stopping zone outside 87-97 Lancaster Road Preston, will cause severe problems for the shops, offices, and apartments there because they will have nowhere to stop to load and unload. May I suggest that you either make the no stopping zone shorter by starting it 15M from the centre line of Tenterfield Street or put the bus stop outside what was Great Times restaurant where it was originally and which would be far more convenient for passengers coming from the market."

Comment

With regards to the suggestion to reduce the length of the bus box; unfortunately a loading bay cannot be accommodated behind the stop. Once the bus has passed the build-out south of Tenterfield Street, the length of the bus stop box is required to enable the buses to pull in parallel with the kerb for improved access for vulnerable users. If a van or car was parked behind the bus stop this manoeuvre would not be practical.

As to the suggestion to relocate the bus stop to outside what was the Great Times restaurant, buses can no longer serve that location since the redevelopment of Preston Bus station (completed in 2018). Prior to the redevelopment buses entered Lancaster Road from Lord Street, ran straight along Lancaster Road and were able to pull into the old stop outside the former Great Times restaurant. With the current bus station layout, buses now exit Old Vicarage onto Lancaster Road and are unable



to swing out of Old Vicarage and serve the old stop. Therefore, it is necessary to locate the bus stop in the proposed location, north of Tenterfield Street.

In respect to loading and unloading outside 87-97 Lancaster Road, at the northern gable end of the building, there is accessibility to a large parking facility to the rear of the buildings which can be utilised for large deliveries if required, the alternative premises referred to have direct parking, loading, and unloading facilities available.

It is suggested that there is nothing in the objection which causes this proposal to be reconsidered. The benefit of a quality bus stop is clear and it is recommended that the Order proceeds to be made.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

The proposals in this report would be implemented under The Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and under the relevant Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions and the procedure followed under their respective legislative provisions.

The proposed quality bus stop and clearway will ensure that the investment in raised kerbs, (as previously required under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and now required by the Equalities Act 2010), is not negated by indiscriminate parking at bus stops, and will help buses align with the kerb to enable level access for disabled passengers and those less mobile and others such as pushchair users.

Financial

The cost of the scheme will be met from the grant funded programme for Lancashire bus transport equality act within the capital programme. The works are estimated to cost a further £12,500 against a remaining budget allocation in the programme of £83,000. There are no revenue financing implications as this programme is grant funded.

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

These facilities will provide greater visibility and conspicuity while reducing the conflict between vehicles and vulnerable users.

Equality and Cohesion

The proposed traffic regulation orders and clearway proposals would improve public transport access and flow, improving services for users who are either unable to drive or do not have access to private vehicles. Introduction of a clearway outside



87-97 Lancaster Road will ensure buses are able to align with the bus stop kerbs, improving access and egress for mobility restricted and other vulnerable users.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

