

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Executive Director for Environment
Date: 11 November 2013

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Preston Central North;
Preston North East;

Proposed One Way Street Order (and associated Part Revocation), Kennington Road, Fulwood, Preston
Consideration of Objections
(Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' refer)

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Executive Summary

Approval is sought for changes to the existing One way system on Kennington Road, Fulwood, which is proposed to be extended to its junction with Beechway.

This is a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to agree that the One Way Order is made, as shown on the plan at Appendix 'B' and set out in schedule at Appendix 'C'.

Background and Advice

Kennington Road is located to the north of and runs parallel with Watling Street Road between Sharoe Green Lane and Bedford Road.

Towards the western end is Kennington Road Primary School and over the years various traffic management measures have been introduced to deal with access and parking associated with the school. The plan attached at Appendix 'A' shows details of the current restrictions.

After discussions with the Police, the then County Councillor for Preston North East and City Councillors it was suggested that in order to reduce vehicular and pedestrian conflict at the junction of Beechway and Kennington Road, the existing one way system between Chapel Road and Holmfield Road should be extended to the junction with Beechway.

Details of the proposed extension to the one-way are shown on the attached plan at Appendix 'B' and are described in the schedule at Appendix 'C'.

Consultations

Consultations with residents, Preston City Council, businesses, emergency services, Bus operators, Ward Councillors and County Councillors were undertaken requesting their views on the proposal.

Preliminary Consultations

Prior to the formal consultation, notification that the County Council was considering making changes to the One-Way on Kennington Road was sent to those properties most directly affected, with five objections being received.

The County Councillors for the two electoral divisions affected were also consulted and initially indicated their full support; although the County Councillor for Preston Central North indicated at that time that he had concerns regarding the contra flow cycle lane that was included in the proposal.

Copies of the objections that were received during the preliminary consultation were forwarded to the divisional County Councillors for their views on whether the proposals should continue through to the formal advertisement stage of the TRO process.

In response to this the County Councillor for Preston North East indicated his continued full support of the proposals, however, the County Councillor for Preston Central North indicated that in view of the number of objections he would prefer that the proposal not go forward.

The objections that were submitted at the preliminary stage are summarised as set out below:-

- Problems on Beechway caused by vehicles using the open gate to access this road via the school grounds.
- Lack of enforcement of the present restriction and the absence of road markings.
- Residents having to travel further when accessing the area.
- The proposed cycle lane would have the effect of narrowing the road thereby increasing risk of accidents "if the NO ENTRY is ignored".
- Suggestion for alternative system.
- Problems caused by on street parking on Beechway.

Comment

Only two of the responses to the preliminary consultation specifically object to the proposed extension of the one way system and of these one is largely concerned with other issues.

The issue of drivers using the school grounds has already been discussed with councillors and an approach to the school has been made to close the gates on to Beechway at busy times so that they cannot be used as a through route.

Enforcement of the current and proposed extended one-way system has been raised with the Police with a request made for an increased presence in the area.

While it is accepted that there will be some residents that are inconvenienced by having to use a slightly longer route, it is considered that this is outweighed by the potential improvements to the traffic movements and road safety around the school at busy times.

The issue of the contra flow cycle lane and increased potential for accidents was referred to the County Council's cycling officer for advice. The officer indicated that current regulations allow contra-flow cycling in a one way street without the need to paint a cycle lane on the street. As Kennington Road is also subject to a 20mph speed limit and flows, except at school times, are low, it is not considered that there is any need for formal cycle lanes. There are no known or recorded collisions at this location. In fact Kennington Road is also used as national cycle route 6 as it provides a safer alternative to Watling St Road.

No specific details of the suggested alternative system have been provided, other than the suggestion that children be dropped off at the main entrance with vehicles then exiting via Chapel Road. Whilst it is accepted that this suggestion may be valid, this movement of traffic would not be affected by the extension of the one-way.

Parking restrictions are already in place on the westerly side of Beechway and at the junction with Kennington Road, and the plan attached at Appendix 'A' sets out the current restrictions.

The area outside the residential properties on the easterly side is currently unrestricted. Whilst the provision of additional daytime controls could be considered, and would prevent parking on the remainder of the street, any restrictions are only actually needed for short periods in the mornings and afternoons, and this would be to the detriment of the residents of Beechway for most of the time.

It is proposed that parking be monitored and the option to provide parking controls considered once the extension to the one-way system, if approved, has been implemented.

Formal Consultation

Formal consultation and public advertisement was undertaken between 12 July and 9 August 2013.

As there has been a change in the elected member for Preston North East since the preliminary consultation took place, the new County Councillor for Preston North

East, has also been consulted and is in full support of the proposals. The County Councillor for Preston Central North still has some reservations about the use of a contra flow cycle lane, but not now to the proposal as a whole.

One objection has been received to the formal consultation and this is summarised and responded to below:-

Objection

The objector indicates that;

"As a resident of the area she cannot see why this proposal will improve the traffic issues within this area.

The current one way system is regularly disregarded and even to the points where we regularly see Police patrolling the no entry system. And frequently issuing fixed penalty notices".

Comment

This objection relates to the apparent lack of compliance with the current one way and a suggestion that compliance with the extended one way will be similarly lacking.

If the extended one way system is approved, the Police have agreed to undertake enforcement as necessary, as is currently the case.

The proposed changes to the One-Way system have been promoted in response to concerns that have been raised by the Police, County and City Councillors along with residents concerned about the current traffic and pedestrian conflict issues on this road.

In view of the improvements to road safety and the general amenity of the area that introducing the proposed extension to the one-way system will achieve, it is therefore recommended that the change should be implemented 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 current Environment Directorate Area South – Preston, provision of new signs and lines budget at an estimated cost of £5,000.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Nil.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.