

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 1 April 2021

Report of the Head of Service - Highways

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Penwortham West;

Approval for the Introduction of Bus Stop Clearway, Liverpool Road, Penwortham

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Approval is sought for the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order along Liverpool Road, Penwortham to provide marked Bus Stop Clearways at existing bus stop location as shown in Appendix 'A'.

The purpose of this proposal is to improve local transport infrastructure. It will also enhance awareness of potential conflicts with stationary buses, improving safety. The bus stop has been moved to accommodate wider works associated with a granted planning permission for a supermarket on the corner of Cop Lane and Liverpool Road.

An objection has been received regarding the proposed bus stop clearway. It relates to use of the bus stop by private vehicles.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the proposals for the Bus Clearway along Liverpool Road, Penwortham as shown in Appendix 'A' for the reasons outlined in this report.

Background and Advice

As part of works associated with the development of a new supermarket on Liverpool Road, Lancashire County Council Highways has been working with the applicant to deliver the access to the site and improvements to the local highway network. This follows completion of the Penwortham bypass and also serves to promote use of the bypass through reallocation of carriageway space for sustainable transport.

The introduction of bus stop clearways along Liverpool Road is intended to improve road safety by reducing the potential for conflict and injury/accident between buses and cyclists and also ensure bus users can board and alight safely without obstructions.

Consultations

The proposal was advertised between 18 November and 16 December 2020 with one response in support and one objection in relation to the proposed bus stop clearway on the north side of Liverpool Road. After correspondence with engineers, the objection remained.

Lancashire Constabulary did not object to the proposals.

The objection cited the use of the bus layby by private vehicles.

"The lay-by opposite my house is longer at the moment and is used by people stopping to post a letter and to drop children off to catch school buses. People are also dropped off for a bus pickup to go rambling, etc. I also pull up with a caravan to drop my wife off on the journey back prior to returning it to storage."

Officer response:

Vehicles should set down in a safe and appropriate location that does not breach traffic regulations (i.e. outside of the bus stop clearway). Rule 243 of the Highway Code advises that drivers must not stop or park at a bus stop. The police have the authority to fine drivers for this, should they consider them to be causing an obstruction. Movement of the location of the layby was necessary to accommodate wider changes to the junction and as part of this the length was amended. It is designed to accommodate two buses. The developer has advised that the new premises are suitable for drivers to stop and park for short periods safely.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The proposals will increase safety for road users.

Traffic Management and Road Safety

The proposal will:

- Ensure that bus drivers discharge their duty to drop passengers off on the kerb and not on the road.
- Ensure that bus services operate on time and are not delayed; and
- Enhance road user awareness of stationary buses.

Equality

The proposal 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
- Help the bus align with the kerb to enable level access for disabled passengers and pushchair users.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A