

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 February 2023

**Report of the Director of Highways and Transport**

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
Preston North;

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering better services;

**Oliver's Place and Pittman Way, Preston - Bus Service Improvement Plans**  
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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**Brief Summary**

As part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan, the county council has proposed additional lengths of No Waiting At Any Time on Oliver's Place and Pittman Way, Preston. This report summarises the proposals and provides details of the formal advertising and consultation and officer responses to objections received.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to approve the implementation by making the Order for additional lengths of No Waiting At Any Time, Oliver's Place & Pittman Way, Preston, as shown on Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

**Detail**

As part of its Bus Service Improvement Plans, the county council has developed proposals for additional lengths of No Waiting At Any Time on Oliver's Place and Pittman Way, Preston.

Due to congestion caused by parked vehicles, since 2016 the operator of bus service no. 23 serving Oliver's Place and Pittman Way has ceased operating services in both directions. Instead, a one-way clockwise loop of Oliver's Place and Pittman Way now operates. This reduction in route distance is designed to provide additional running time for services to mitigate the effect of the congestion



encountered. This change in operation does however have a negative impact on bus passengers as it makes the service provided less convenient. Stops on the anti-clockwise loop are no longer served, with the return service instead travelling via Eastway.

The proposed No Waiting At Any Time restrictions will complement those already in place on other lengths of Pittman Way and Oliver's Place, ease traffic flow and increase reliability of bus services. The bus operator believes this proposal, alongside others on route no. 23, will reduce journey times such that a two-way service can be reinstated around Pittman Way and Oliver's Place.

## **Consultations**

The No Waiting At Any Time restrictions were advertised and consulted upon commencing 25 November 2022 for a 4 week period. The comments received are summarised below.

The county councillor for the electoral division concerned and Lancashire Constabulary were consulted and raised no objections.

Preston Bus offered support for the proposals, citing issues such as reducing congestion and improved service reliability.

The owner of an adjacent business park objected to the proposals. A summary of the issues raised is as follows:

- The companies that occupy the business park, employ 200 staff but the car park only accommodates 80 vehicles. Car parking restrictions on both sides of Oliver's Place will lead to staff looking for parking on Caxton Road where spaces are not always available and will cause huge difficulties for staff.
- A lot of employees live in areas where the bus connections to Fulwood are very poor.
- Amending the proposal to have No Waiting at Any Time on the southern side of Oliver's Place only would be a workable solution which should mitigate the issues the buses are facing, without causing huge disruption to many employees.

In response officers advise that, whilst the reduction in on-street parking may cause some inconvenience, in this instance the priority is considered to be reduction in congestion caused by parked vehicles, thereby allowing for improved bus services. The businesses concerned may wish to consider implementation of Workplace Travel Plans. These are designed to encourage efficient and environmentally friendly methods for travelling to work, such as car sharing, walking, cycling and use of public transport, thereby reducing the need for on-site parking.

The carriageway on Oliver's Place is approximately 7.1 metres wide. Allowing vehicles to park on the north side as suggested, would leave a remaining road width of approximately 4.9 metres. This is insufficient to allow two-way traffic, including



buses, to operate safely and efficiently past parked cars. The desired reduction in traffic congestion would therefore not be achieved.

Whilst the issues raised in the objection are understandable it is suggested that they do not outweigh the importance of seeking to re-instate the two-way bus service at this location and Cabinet may consider it appropriate that the Order be made.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

Without the additional No Waiting At Any Time on Oliver's Place and Pittman Way, it is likely vehicles will continue to park in the carriageway resulting in continued congestion and delays to bus services.

### **Financial**

The estimated cost of the proposals detailed in this report is £27,000 to be funded from the county council's successful Bus Service Improvement Plan bid to the Department for Transport.

### **Legal**

The proposals detailed in this report would be implemented under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		

