

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 July 2024

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

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
Preston City;

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Supporting economic growth;

**Friargate North, Preston - Abandonment of Existing Proposed Traffic Regulation Order and Implementation of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order**

(Appendices 'A' - 'B' refer)

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**Brief Summary**

This report outlines proposals to abandon a proposed permanent Traffic Regulation Order that was previously approved by Cabinet for the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 10am-midnight and midnight-6am on Friargate, Preston and several side roads that was originally advertised as part of the Transforming Friargate North and Ring Way project. It also proposes the making of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in its place with timings from 11am-midnight and midnight-6am, which will be monitored thereafter.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to approve the abandonment of the Traffic Regulation Order for the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 10am-midnight and midnight-6am on Friargate North, Preston and side roads and approve the making of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in its place.

**Detail**

The Transforming Cities Fund project aims to enable more people to leave the car at home and increase opportunities to catch the bus, walk and cycle, fundamentally changing travel options into and around the Friargate and Ring Way area of Preston.



It also encourages the flow of people between the University and the Harris Quarter, reconnecting the city to provide a joined-up shopping and leisure experience.

For the purpose of this report, Friargate North refers to the section of Friargate between Ring Way and the University.

As part of the Transforming Friargate North and Ring Way project several traffic orders were advertised to work in unison with construction works to achieve the project's aims. The package of traffic orders that was originally advertised and approved by Cabinet in February 2023 included an order for the prohibition of driving except cycles 10am to midnight, and midnight to 6am on Friargate North, and sections of Union Street, Hill Street and Heatley Street (Appendix 'B' refers). Consultation was undertaken with businesses to be affected by this traffic order prior to it being formally advertised and approved by Cabinet. However, since the advertising and approval by Cabinet further comments have been received from affected businesses which conflict with each other and therefore there is a need to address these comments and ensure restrictions are sufficient.

Officers therefore propose to abandon the proposed traffic regulation order for the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 10am-midnight and midnight-6am on Friargate North and side roads and instead implement and monitor an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order with amended timings. It is proposed that this Experimental Traffic Regulation Order will be for the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 11am-midnight and midnight-6am. The extents of this experimental traffic order will match those of the traffic order that is to be abandoned, (Appendix 'A' refers). During the hours of 6am and 11am when the prohibition of driving does not apply access will be restricted to permit holders only. Permit holders will be businesses along Friargate North (between Ring Way and Marsh Lane) and access will be granted by a key issued to them which they can use for loading access during the hours of 6am and 11am daily. Businesses will be responsible for opening and closing the bollards that restrict access.

A prohibition of driving except cycles along Friargate North, between Union Street and Marsh Lane is still required to maintain a safe environment for non-vehicle users and to preserve the enhanced pedestrian and café culture environment as envisaged, whilst maintaining access requirements for businesses.

At present it is not clear what the effect of these restrictions will have on the road network and the businesses along Friargate North, it is considered that an experiment in this instance would allow for the amendment of the Prohibition of Driving timings should 6-11am not be considered sufficient for businesses to undertake servicing and the city council to undertake their duties. The proposed timings for the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 11am-midnight and midnight-6am were chosen following engagement with local businesses and Preston City Council to ascertain when they undertake their deliveries and require access to the area. It is noted that many of the businesses to be affected are food establishments and the restrictions proposed will allow those businesses to receive the deliveries required for them to operate but also control potential traffic relating to food delivery services, that would conflict with avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road to which the order relates and preserve and improve the amenities of the area. However, the order is to be experimental to allow for the amendment of these



timings should it be found that the proposed timings do not generally satisfy all affected. To assess this, the introduction of the Prohibition of Driving except Cycles 11am-midnight and midnight-6am restrictions by an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is considered appropriate. The implementation of the experimental traffic order will run for 18 months with a consultation period of 6 months and a view to make the experimental order permanent at the end of the 18-month period. The consultation period will be monitored by officers and comments received will be addressed and the scheme reviewed as necessary.

## Appendices

Appendices 'A' - 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Plan of proposed Traffic Regulation Order to be abandoned & Proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Friargate North
Appendix 'B'	Traffic Regulation Order proposed to be abandoned

## Consultations

Formal advertising and consultation regarding the traffic order proposed to be abandoned took place between 4 November and 2 December 2022. The public had access to supplementary documents on the project website.

Significant informal engagement has been undertaken with businesses both prior to and following the formal advertising and consultation of the traffic orders associated with the Transforming Friargate North and Ring Way project.

## 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 associated Regulations as well as under the relevant The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions and the procedure followed under their respective legislative provisions.

## Financial

The Transforming Friargate and Ring Way project is funded by the Department for Transport through the Transforming Cities Fund. There would be no change in financial costs as a result of the proposals set out within this report.



## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

