

<b>Notice of</b>	Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
<b>Decision Number:</b>	PH65/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	24 August 2021

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT HUB TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 The report seeks authorisation for officers to proceed with the statutory consultation, advertisement and making of a proposed Traffic Regulation Order in respect of the Council's proposal to

- a) Introduce a prohibition of left turn from the Promenade to the junction with Church Street
- b) Introduce bus only roads on Church Street, Corporation Street and West Street
- c) introduce a traffic enforcement camera zone within the Public Transport Hub on Market Street (between West Street and Church Street), Church Street (between Market Street and Corporation Street) and Corporation Street (between Church Street and West Street)
- d) to introduce a one-way system for Back Church Street from Corporation Street to Church Street (west to east)

In respect of the 1.1 c) the report further seeks authorisation to set the level of the Penalty Charge Notice in line with guidance and comparable to neighbouring Authorities in the Northwest and to incorporate the proposed Penalty Charge Notice charge to the Fees and Charges schedule held by the Highways and Traffic section, within the Community and Environment Directorate.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to introduce a prohibition of left turn from the Promenade to the

junction with Church Street.

- 2.2 To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to introduce bus only roads on Church Street, Corporation Street and West Street.
- 2.3 To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to establish a traffic enforcement camera zone for the Public Transport Hub on Market Street (between West Street and Church Street), Church Street (between Market Street and Corporation Street) and Corporation Street (between Church Street and West Street) as indicated in the plan attached at Appendix A.
- 2.4 To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to authorise publishing of public notices of the Council's intention to introduce a one-way system for Back Church Street from Corporation Street to Church Street (west to east).
- 2.5 If no objections are received in relation to the proposals or if any objections are received are subsequently withdrawn to authorise the Head of Legal to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.6 Subject to 2.5 to set the Penalty Charge Notice at the level of £60, reduced to £30 (if paid within 14 days of service of PCN) and £90 (if paid after service of charge certificate). This charge to have effect until the 31 March 2022 when the charge would be reviewed along with all Highways fees and charges.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 To fulfil the Traffic Management role of Blackpool Council and to enable the traffic camera enforcement to be established, please see Background Information below.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 Not to progress the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to statutory consultation and advertisement stage and to abandon the proposal of a traffic enforcement camera zone for the Public Transport Hub.

**5.0 Council priority:**

- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:  
“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool” and  
“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background information**

- 6.1 Effective traffic management is economically crucial: A built-up urban form with scarce greenspace means that road-space cannot be increased. In Blackpool, statistics and historical data have shown that in reality most current and future visitors will do so by car. Visitor number growth must not compromise the resort’s public realm and therefore better management of traffic movement to decrease congestion and air pollution which are key drivers in the Blackpool Local Transport Plan is crucial.
- 6.2 In order to manage this, the Council successfully implemented an Intelligent Transport scheme in 2018, which allows the Council to gather real time journey information, car park usage and traffic/event management via the deployment of Variable Message signs, Roadside data gathering equipment and traffic monitoring cameras.
- 6.3 The next step is to introduce a traffic movement order to facilitate effect traffic management. At the same time as introducing the traffic movement order the proposal is to introduce traffic enforcement cameras on parts of the highway network, in the town centre where traffic restrictions will be applied. The introduction of enforcement cameras will deter unnecessary trips within these areas, which will permit buses, taxis and authorised vehicles to access these roads. The current mix of vehicles on certain streets results in disruptive traffic patterns, which affects key public transport routes and public realm areas.
- 6.4 The aim of the scheme is to remove these infringements and make the area safer for all road users.
- 6.5 In addition to establishing a traffic movement order, camera enforcement zone the report seeks to establish the rate of Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). The recommendation is to set the level at £60, reduced to £30 (if paid within 14 days of service of PCN) and £90 (if paid after service of charge certificate). This is in line with thresholds set by the Department of Transport and in line with neighbouring Authorities in the Northwest, namely Lancashire and Bolton.
- 6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **7.0 List of Appendices:**

- 7.1 Appendix A: Drawing no. 1977 – 110 which details the proposed signs and road markings TCEZ/003  
Appendix B: Consultation Plan

## **8.0 Financial considerations:**

- 8.1 To be funded from the Department of Transport Co-operative Intelligent Transport Initiative.

## **9.0 Legal considerations:**

- 9.1 Under Section 1(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council in its capacity as traffic authority may make a traffic regulation order where it appears to the authority making the order that it is expedient to make it-
- (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or
  - (b) for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or
  - (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or
  - (d) for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property, or
  - (e) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or
  - (f) for preserving the amenities of the area through which the road runs or
  - (g) for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality).

Under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the Council has a duty to exercise the functions conferred on it by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

Under Section 144 of the Transport Act 2000 the Council have the ability to set civil penalties for bus lane contraventions

The making of a Traffic Regulation Order requires advertisement and consultation in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation to be carried out with key stakeholders, which include the Emergency Services, Bus Operators, Taxi Associations, Town Centre BID, Temple Street Car Park permit holders and the Grand Theatre.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Provisional guidance on bus lane (including tramway) enforcement in England outside London

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to introduce a prohibition of left turn from the Promenade to the junction with Church Street.
2. To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to introduce bus only roads on Church Street, Corporation Street and West Street.
3. To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to establish a traffic enforcement camera zone for the Public Transport Hub on Market Street (between West Street and Church Street), Church Street (between Market Street and Corporation Street) and Corporation Street (between Church Street and West Street) as indicated in the plan attached at Appendix A.
4. To authorise the statutory consultation and advertisement of notice of the intention of the Council to authorise publishing of public notices of the Council's intention to introduce a one-way system for Back Church Street from Corporation Street to Church Street (west to east).
5. If no objections are received in relation to the proposals or if any objections are received are subsequently withdrawn

to authorise the Head of Legal to make the Traffic Regulation Order.

6. To set the Penalty Charge Notice at the level of £60, reduced to £30 (if paid within 14 days of service of PCN) and £90 (if paid after service of charge certificate). This charge to have effect until the 31 March 2022 when the charge would be reviewed along with all Highways fees and charges.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 24 August 2021

**21.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

21.1 To fulfil the Traffic Management role of Blackpool Council and to enable the traffic camera enforcement to be established, please see Background Information.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 24 August 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1