

Notice of:	Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods
Decision Number:	PH43/2023
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge Director for Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet member:	Councillor Paula Burdess, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods
Date of decision:	5 June 2023

THE BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL CYCLE LANE MODIFICATION ORDER 2023

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the representation and alternative options of the advertised proposed restriction on St Walburgas Road.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the proposal, subsequent options, and the recommendation of the Director of Community and Environmental services.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations(s):

3.1 It is appropriate that the representation is fully considered and a decision made whether or not to proceed with the proposed restrictions or choose a different option.

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 councils approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 To continue with the current arrangement by not proceeding with the proposal.

5.0 Councils priority:

5.1 The relevant council priority is: "Communities: creating stronger communities and

increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background Information:

- 6.1 Blackpool Council secured £312,000 from the Department for Transport’s £225m Active Travel Fund available to local authorities to introduce cycling and walking improvements.
- 6.2 St Walburgas Road had already been identified as a possible location for a segregated cycle lane scheme, as it already contains some cycling provision and is used as a commuter route, supports a School site St Mary’s Catholic Academy and two employment sites, Spire Fylde Coast Hospital and Victoria Hospital.
- 6.3 The scheme had originally proposed a segregated / separate on carriageway cycle lane, the scheme met the new requirements of separating traffic from cyclists with a physical barrier. This in turn changed the access and parking arrangements on St Walburgas Road for the residents.
- 6.4 To ensure there was robust and full engagement with stakeholders and residents Highways and Traffic Management Services appointed Infusion to undertake a consultation exercise on the proposal. The consultation provided all the information needed to understand the measures that would be implemented as part of the scheme should the scheme progress. The aim was to gather comment and opinion on cycling. The underlying message related to methods of transport cycling, support for cycling and active travel generally. The consultation took in comments from residents and road users in the immediate area and from further afield in Blackpool.
- 6.5 A total of 252 people responded to the survey, with 55.2% against the proposal, a proportion of these lived on St Walburgas Road, because of the hard segregation proposed they were unhappy with the impact on them and raising health and safety concerns in relation to exiting their properties. 40.5% were in favour of the scheme. Of note was of the 99 cyclists who responded 43.4% were already satisfied, 43.4% dissatisfied with the existing cycling provision along St Walburgas Road.
- 6.6 In light of the feedback received as part of the formal consultation, the decision was taken not to proceed with the scheme as proposed, but to invest in the existing cycling facilities along St Walburgas Road, this was a key message highlighted in the consultation feedback, not to proceed with the original proposal but to renew / refresh and improve the current scheme. A further review of the existing cycle facilities along St Walburgas Road was therefore undertaken.
- 6.7 Whilst no significant changes are to be made to the layout whilst upgrading and refreshing the current cycle scheme road markings, the layout has to meet with current and relevant highway standards, in order to do so involves removing and upgrading the

existing road lining on the west side of St Walburgas Road to provide cyclists with a safer route. As part of this a 15m extension to the existing double yellow lines outside property number 195 St Walburgas Road is required. This new arrangement will introduce safer lay-by parking between Grange Road and St Bernard Avenue (West side of St Walburgas Road).

- 6.8 As part of this modification an informal consultation was carried out with the houses between Grange Road and St Bernard Avenue. Of these houses 3 indicated they would in principle be opposed to the modification of the cycle lane, however due to the issues identified in the statement of reason and statutory duties of the Highways Authority the decision has been taken to proceed with the proposal to make the order and publish the necessary notices inviting formal representations to the proposals.
- 6.9 A section of single yellow line (and associated signage) is to be removed outside of No 197 St Walburgas Road to No 233 St Walburgas Road. This is required to help gives cyclist a safer route and also help with safer layby parking between Riversway and Grange Road.
- 6.10 In November of 2020 a traffic counter was installed on St Walburgas Road, near to St Mary High School, monitoring south bound traffic. This counter not only counts the amount of traffic passing by, but also calculates the speed of the vehicles. The Police allow vehicles to travel at 10% +2mph over the posted speed limit. On St. Walburgas this equates to 35mph. The main figure they look at is the 85% of vehicles speeds if this figure is above the 35mph threshold then the police will look at the road and conduct further enforcement.
- 6.11 The 85% recorded on St Walburgas Road was 42mph with a top speed recorded at 95mph.
- 6.12 Due to this the police want to conduct further enforcement but have nowhere safe to park the police camera vehicle. The Council, as part of this project, is going to introduce a police only bay on the east side of St Walburgas Road just south of the entrance to the Spire Hospital.
- 6.13 A public notice was advertised in the Blackpool Gazette on the 10 March 2023 and on site in the form of notices attached to lighting columns. These notices were out until 31 March 2023. The notice outlined the proposed permanent traffic regulation order and contained details as to how to obtain further information regarding the scheme and how to make formal representations in response to the scheme.
- 6.14 In response the Council has received one formal representation from a resident of St Walburgas Road. The formal representation appears to restate representations which were made to the initial proposed scheme which the Council decided not to proceed with rather than the scheme put forward in the proposed permanent traffic regulation

order; the subject of the report.

6.15 After consideration by Director for Community and Environmental services, and in consideration of the statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order it was recommended to proceed with the Order as originally drafted as the reason for making the order outweigh the representation made (this is due to the objection referring solely to earlier proposals in this area).

6.16 Does this information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Existing layout Map No 1
- 7.2 Existing layout Map No 2
- 7.3 Proposed Layout Map No 1
- 7.4 Site Notices
- 7.4 Objection email

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Work to be funded by the Traffic Management budget

9.0 Legal Consideration:

- 9.1 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 32, 35, 53 and 124
- 9.2 Traffic Management Act 2004.

10.0 Risk Management Consideration:

10.1 This would be an amenity order and low risk in safety terms.

11.0 Equality Consideration:

11.1 None

12.0 Suitability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Public advertisement was placed in the local paper. It was also advertised on site in the

form of notices attached to the lighting columns in the affected areas.

14.0 Background Papers:

14.1 None

ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/CABINET MEMBER

16.0 Key decision information:

16.1 None

17.0 Call-in information:

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

18.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

19.0 Declaration of Interest (if applicable):

19.1 None

20.0 Executive Decision:

20.1 The Cabinet Member resolved as follows:

Having considered the objection and the recommendation of the Director of Community and Environmental Services, to proceed with the proposed Traffic Regulation Order

21.0 Date of decision:

21.1 5 June 2023

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 The Cabinet Member is satisfied that the Order is necessary and proportionate to improve road safety.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 5 June 2023

24.0 Executive Members in attendance:

24.1

25.0 Call-in:

25.1

26.0 Notes:

26.1