

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		07 December 2022	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Marlene Haworth - Deputy Leader of the Council	
REPORT AUTHOR:		David Turner – Principal Engineer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Accrington Town Centre Parking	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with information relating to current arrangements for the Shoppers Car Park located at Abbey Street & Abbey Grange (Cross Street) in Accrington Town Centre so members can make a decision on whether to maintain or revoke the current three hour parking Traffic Regulation Order.
- 1.2 To provide members with information relating to the current situation of delivery vehicles entering the Broadway Shopping Pedestrian Zone (between Union Street & Cornhill) so members can make a decision on whether to revoke the current Traffic Regulation Orders and employ a private parking enforcement company to regulate vehicle deliveries on Broadway.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the current three hour parking limit Traffic Regulation Order on the Abbey Street and Abbey Grange (Cross Street) Car Parks be removed opening the car parks to unrestricted all day parking in line with all Council owned off street car parks.
- 2.2 That the current Traffic Regulation Orders effecting Broadway at the Union Street entrance and the gateway near Cornhill be removed and for a private parking enforcement company to be employed to regulate vehicle deliveries.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

3.1 Abbey Street and Abbey Grange (Cross Street) Car Parks

- 3.1.1 Following the closure of the closure of the Blackburn Road car park for the new bus station, the Council now administers only two Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) on car parks located on Abbey Street and Abbey Grange (Cross Street), Accrington. The TRO's limit parking to a maximum of 3 hours. The Council employs parking enforcement officers from Ribble Valley Borough Council to carry out parking enforcement on the two car parks on one day per month.
- 3.1.2 Any fines issued are then processed by an external company, Chipside. The whole process is overseen by the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) joint committee. All the above charge for their services and the Council does not profit from the outcome of enforcement.
- 3.1.3 Due to the light touch procedure of enforcement on the two car parks, with a one day visit per month, this has shown to be confusing and frustrating to parking users. Also, the administration of the parking restrictions, including enforcement, back office and appeals has to be dealt with which is quite onerous and time consuming especially with the current strain on Council resources.
- 3.1.4 It is for the reasons above it is recommend the TRO's on the two car parks are revoked and the car parks be opened up to unrestricted all day parking, in line with all other Council owned car parks in the borough.
- 3.1.5 If approved, the Council would need to make a request to Lancashire County Council for the removal of the TRO's to be added to annual review of Traffic Regulation Orders for Lancashire. Once the request has been approved and implemented, the contract agreements with Ribble Valley Borough Council, Chipside and Patrol would also be terminated without any costs incurred.
- 3.1.6 The time from commencement to completion of the above would be approximately 12 months.

3.2 Broadway Traffic Regulation Orders

- 3.2.1 Located at the Union Street entrance to Broadway there is Traffic Regulation Order with signage stating "Pedestrian Zone Except Emergency Vehicles", the meaning of which is that no vehicles are allowed to pass the signs and enter the Broadway Pedestrian Zone at any time except for emergency vehicles.
- 3.2.2 Located at the gateway adjacent to Cornhill on Broadway, there is a TRO with a sign stating "Pedestrian Zone Permit Holders Only for Loading and Unloading" the meaning of which is no vehicles are allowed to pass the sign and enter the Broadway Pedestrian Zone except for vehicles holding a permit issued by the Council.

- 3.2.3 Not all shop units on Broadway have access to a rear service yard and therefore they do require vehicular access to the frontage for deliveries.
- 3.2.4 A private company has been employed to carry out parking enforcement on Broadway and regulate loading and loading to shops restricting the time when loading and unloading can take place, to between the hours of 7am to 8.30am and 5.30pm to 7pm. However, this causes a contradiction. In order for vehicles to load and unload on Broadway as per the private company signs, vehicles would need to pass the Traffic Regulation Order signs located at either end of the Broadway pedestrian zone, illegally contravening the Order. The Council asked the private company to stop enforcement until the situation is resolved.
- 3.2.5 It is recommended that the Traffic Regulation Orders are revoked and the signs be removed. This would be brought about by making a request to Lancashire County Council for the removal of the TRO's to be added to annual review of Traffic Regulation Orders for Lancashire. Once the request has been approved and implemented, the agreement with the private enforcement company would then be reinstated to carry out parking enforcement and regulate loading and unloading on Broadway. The agreement with the private enforcement company is that it is at no cost to the Council as the company retains the income from any fines issued.
- 3.2.6 The time from commencement to completion of the above would be approximately 12 months.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Car Park TRO's

Option considered – Do nothing

Reason for rejection – Confusion & frustration to users leading to complaints

4.2 Broadway TRO's

Option considered – Do nothing

Reason for rejection - Retailers on Broadway will continue to drive delivery vehicles on to Broadway unregulated. The TRO's on Broadway are not being enforced by the Police.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Lancashire County Council Highways
Marleen Howarth – Portfolio Holder for the Town Centre

6. Implications

Financial implications (including	Car Parks - £200 for removal of signs
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any future financial commitments for the Council)	Car Parks Revenue Budget.
Legal and human rights implications	Not applicable
Assessment of risk	Not applicable
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

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<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=2309&Ver>

8. Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.