

Friargate South Statement of Reasons

These proposals form part of the Active Travel Improvements to Cheapside/Market Place, Orchard Street and Friargate South, delivered under Preston City Council's Levelling Up Fund 'Active Preston' Programme, funded by Central Government. The scheme includes the introduction of shared surface areas, a contraflow cycle route, minor amendments to the existing restricted traffic flow, and adjustments to loading provision along the corridor.

The works will complement and integrate with the recently completed Friargate North improvements (north of Ringway), delivered through the Transforming Cities Fund by Lancashire County Council.

The proposals consist of the following:

1. Amendments to Existing Pedestrian Zone and One-Way Restrictions

A new Moving Traffic Order is proposed to include the following:

- Introduction of a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone along Friargate (from Cheapside to Orchard Street), Orchard Street, Lowthian Street and a section of Market Street with a Prohibition of Driving except cycles and permitting access for Goods Vehicles for loading only between 4pm–midnight, and midnight–11am to replace the current Pedestrian Zone 9am-6.30pm.
- Introduction of a Prohibition of Driving except Cycles on Friargate from Orchard Street.
- Introduction of one-way traffic (except for pedal cycles) on Friargate, Orchard Street and part of Cheapside to support two-way cycle movements and link with the existing LCN25 cycle route adjacent to the Flag Market in front of Turtle Bay.
- Removal of the existing historic "Prohibited Access – All Vehicles except Permit Holders 9am–6.30pm" restriction which is no longer required.

2. Amendments to Existing Parking Restrictions

A new Parking Order is proposed to include the following:

- Introduction of two dedicated loading bays on Friargate.
- Amendment to the existing No Waiting 9am–6.30pm restrictions on Friargate, Orchard Street and Lowthian Street introducing a No Waiting at Any Time (NWAAT) restriction.
- Amendment of the existing Permit Holder–exempt No Waiting restrictions (Mon–Fri 9–11am & 4–6.30pm; Sat 9–10am & 4–6.30pm) on Market Street at the top of Orchard Street.

- Introduction of a No Loading at Any Time (NLAAT) restriction on Friargate.
- Introduction of a No Loading 11am–4pm restriction on Orchard Street, Lowthian Street and a small section of Market Street, to correspond with the access provisions of the Pedestrian and Cycle Zone.
- Amendment to the existing No Waiting and No Loading 9am–6.30pm restrictions on Cheapside, Market Street, Earl Street and Birley Street to introduce a No Waiting and No Loading at Any Time restriction - The existing Loading, Disabled and Taxi Bays currently signed on site are to remain.

3. Confirmation of Existing Cycle Track

In accordance with Sections 65(1) and 66(4) of the Highways Act 1980, the existing cycle track adjacent to the Flag Market in front of Turtle Bay will be formally confirmed to allow effective enforcement.

Purpose of the Proposals

The scheme aims to:

- Create a traffic-free corridor on Friargate, improving the environment and local amenity.
- Maintain a defined window of service access to support businesses and residents.
- Enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity, promoting sustainable and active travel within the city centre.
- Link to the wider National Cycle Network and recently improved routes.
- Rationalise and update existing waiting and loading restrictions to support safe operation, free flow of permitted traffic, and retain existing Loading, Disabled and Taxi bays as currently signed.

REASONS UNDER Section 1 of the RTRA

- (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
- (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or
- (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs