

Levelling Up East Lancashire Project Manchester Road Accessible and Vibrant Town Centre Scheme

STATEMENT OF REASONS

These proposals form part of the Levelling Up East Lancashire project. They aim to deliver improvements in town centre locations through:

- Making it safer and easier to walk and wheel around town centres with better crossing facilities and wider pavements.
- Improving street environments and public spaces with new paving and surfaces, planting and seating.
- Refreshing and modernising town centre spaces to support local businesses.
- Improving routes and crossings to make it easier and safer for people.

The proposals will work together to create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and vulnerable users, whilst also improving public realm in the area. The intention of the scheme is twofold, to:

- Increase footfall in town centres and local neighbourhoods to support business growth and investment
- Increase active travel uptake to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

These proposals include the following:

- Crossing points for pedestrians to facilitate their safe crossing of the road and minimise conflict with motor vehicles.
- No Left Turn restriction to allow facilitate safe crossing of pedestrians at Nelson Square junction
- Road humps, raised pedestrian crossing points and raised junction tables to reduce vehicle speeds and improve road safety particularly for pedestrians and vulnerable road users.
- Limited waiting restrictions to provide loading and parking opportunities for local businesses and will help prevent vehicles from being parked for extended periods in a high demand area.
- Providing additional blue badge holder parking and provisions for taxis
- No Waiting at Any Time to prevent obstructive parking, maintain clear visibility at junctions and ensure safe and efficient movement of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
- No Loading at Any Time to prevent obstruction caused by loading activity, maintain clear sightlines and access, and enhance safety and traffic flow.
- Minor alterations to existing No Waiting at Any Time restrictions to facilitate the proposed changes to the road layout

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