

Appendix 2: 2003/04 TRO Review – as led by the County Council

The County Council commenced a review of the Lancaster City Centre Pedestrian Zone in Spring 2003 - seemingly at the instigation of the City Council following member requests. This involved extensive consultations. In July 2004 the County prepared an issues report and in October 2004 a draft review and options report (Lancaster City Centre Pedestrian Zone Review Options Report). The main purpose was to examine the operation of the above TRO. This report identified a number of issues and presented options for addressing these. From what can be gleaned this was subject to further consultation and then the County advised what changes it sought to the TRO.

It is clear that the County had very broad support for making several changes to the TRO the purpose of which was to improve the zone for the amenity and safety of pedestrians while avoiding any significant adverse affect on business trading.

The changes then proposed by the county in summary are -

- Core period. Change to 9:30 to 17:00.
- Weight restriction. No change but subject to monitoring
- Remove exemption for parcel delivery vehicles to access within the core period
- Taxi access. No change – exclude taxis from the zone
- Disabled parking – Remove disabled parking bays within the zone
- Permit A – no change but review and improve administration and enforcement
- Permit B – no change
- Permit C - no change but review the administration, issue, use and enforcement
- Cycling – permit cycling along Church Street in both directions at all times

However it is apparent that there was a difference of view between County Highways officers and the City Council's Head of Property as to how to facilitate vehicular access for market traders to dismantle the outdoor market in the winter months consistent with the general aim of minimising vehicular access within core hours and the specific County proposal to extend the core period to 17:00.

The Head of Property Service's view was that access for market traders into the zone from 15:30 i.e. within core hours should be achieved by incorporating within Permit C a right to enter the zone for the purpose of dismantling stalls. As far as it is understood now the County officer view was that such increased use of Permit C would be inconsistent with the general objectives of the TRO revision.

The officers were unable to reach a consensus on this and in the light of the concern regarding the market operations on 14 August 2007 the City Council resolved to object to the proposed changes to the TRO should they be formally proposed by the County Council by means of an Individual Cabinet Member Decision item 'Lancaster Market'. This report is available to view at: <http://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=616&MId=4060&Ver=4>).

After this the County Council refrained from progressing further any revision of the TRO. Notwithstanding the merits of this decision as informed only by the specific aspect of the outdoor market this meant that all the other changes then sought and for which there was a broad consensus have not been achieved.