

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION**  
by  
**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JACKIE CHARLTON**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR A GREENER POWYS**  
**March 2024**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Tony Caine

**REPORT TITLE:** C0240 Free Street, Brecon Proposed One Way

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks to secure portfolio holder approval to commence the legal procedure for the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order, including the statutory consultation, to make the C0240 Free Street in Brecon one way in a southerly direction as shown on the attached plan.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Free Street is currently a two-way road with double yellow lines on both sides. It is a narrow residential street with terraces situated directly at the rear of the relatively narrow footways. The residents have no parking and although there is the inner relief road that runs to the north, vehicles use Free Street as a through road. The level of use of the street causes concern with pedestrians on the narrow footways.
- 2.2 The two-way traffic which includes large vehicles such as full-sized buses operating from the bus station, do cause issues with a section of channel drain towards the southern end as the road is narrow and these vehicles have to overrun that channel. This overrunning of the channel drain causes regular damage loosening the covers causing a noise nuisance to the residents and requiring regular maintenance.
- 2.3 The traffic signals at the norther end of Free Street are obsolete and are programmed for replacement. Currently this is a crossroad signalised junction with pedestrian phases.

**3. Advice**

- 3.1 The traffic signals do require renewing this financial year and funding is allocated for this within the Council's capital budget. As they are obsolete, spare parts are no longer manufactured and when they go faulty, they are repaired using whatever limited parts are available. Any serious fault will mean they will no longer function.
- 3.2 The channel drain had reached its end of life and has just been replaced.
- 3.3 There is concern from the residents that the channel drain will continue to be damaged by vehicles driving over it and will mean the channel drain will require

continual ongoing maintenance. The damage causes a noise nuisance for those living along the street.

- 3.4 As we are seeking to renew the traffic signals, it provides an opportune time to consider making changes to Free Street to protect the channel drain from regular damage.
- 3.5 Making Free Street one way in a southerly direction allows the signalised crossroad junction to be modified improving its capacity as only 3 legs will have traffic entering the junction. The resulting one-way street will then allow a safety zone to be created between the running lane and the narrow footways whilst also providing protection to the channel drain.
- 3.6 An initial informal consultation was undertaken with the County Councillors for the area in February 2022 and this resulted in broad support for making the street one way.
- 3.7 It is not planned to undertake any physical works along Free Street just making use of line marking at an approximate cost of £1000. This together with approximately £1000 for the traffic order advertisements will be funded from the County's Traffic Management and Small Safety Schemes budget allocated to the renewal of the traffic signals.
- 3.8 If we simply replaced the signals as a crossroads, we would not be able reduce traffic flow within the residential street or help to protect the channel drain from being continually damaged.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 All costs associated with the implementation of the Traffic Regular Orders and the manufacture/erection of the associated signage and carriageway markings will be funded through the allocated county capital budget for the scheme.
- 4.2 The Head of Financial Services (Section 151 Officer) notes the above.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1. The Property Lawyer North has reviewed the proposals and they appear appropriate as long as we are acting in accordance with the Guidance and follow the correct procedures.
- 5.2. The Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer has commented: "I note the legal comment and support the recommendations" .

#### **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 6.1. The proposal will have no negative impact with respect to the Council's Climate and Nature emergency declarations. It is considered that by making the street one way, the level of traffic will reduce resulting in an improvement in air quality along this narrow

street. Whilst traffic will be displaced, it will be displaced onto roads intended to cater for through traffic, including the Inner Relief Road.

**7. Data Protection**

7.1 Personal data will be collected from responses to the public consultation which is essential to undertake this statutory requirement for making a Traffic Regulation Order. This data will be collected and managed in accordance with the privacy notice that is published on the Traffic Order Consultation page on our website.

7.2 The Data Protection Officer notes the requirement for public consultation and that the personal data collected during this process will be processed in accordance with the published privacy notice.

**8. Comment from local member(s)**

8.1 Cllrs Liz Rijnenberg and Chris Walsh have consulted with residents of Free Street to understand their concerns about the volume of heavy traffic travelling on the street and the current proposal. This should now be subject to public consultation.

**9. Impact Assessment**

9.1 An impact assessment is not required.

**10. Recommendation**

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<p><b>1. To authorise the local highway authority to commence the legal public consultation procedure for the proposed traffic regulation order relating to the making of Free Street, Brecon one way in a southerly direction as indicated on the attached plan, and if no substantive objections are received implement the traffic movement prohibition Order in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.</b></p>	<p><b>To reduce the level of traffic using Free Street as a short cut and in doing so allow the channel drain to be better protected from further damage as well as improving the efficiency of the traffic signals.</b></p>

<b>Relevant Policy:</b>	<p><b>Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan 2023-27 Stronger, Fairer, Greener:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate and Nature: Tackling the Climate and Nature Emergency To support the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in September 2020, and Nature</li> </ul>
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	<p>Emergency in October 2022, we are working to become a net-zero Council by 2030 and will support Powys to become a net-zero County by 2050</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equalities We continue to make improvements to our services and employment practices to meet the diverse needs of the people of Powys. This includes removing barriers and helping to improve the lives and experiences of those who are disadvantaged. Fairness is central to everything we do as a Council, and we are on a mission to tackle inequality and create better opportunities for all people in Powys.</li> </ul> <p><b>Net zero 2030 – carbon reduction and modal shift to sustainable travel</b></p>		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y /N</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y /N</b>

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