

## **DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES**

**ORIGINATING DIVISION: Highways and Operations**

**REPORT TO: Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

**Planning and Highways Committee**

**COMMITTEE DATE: 18th April 2024**

**TITLE: Progress St., Darwen – Objection to the proposed  
Traffic Regulation Order**

**WARDS: Darwen South Ward**

**COUNCILLORS: Kevin Connor, Matthew Jackson, Anthony Shaw**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise the Executive Member for Environment & Operations of the receipt of one letter of objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to support new Electric Vehicle parking bays.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

Following the Executive Member decision to authorise the advertising of the proposed TRO for the Blackburn with Darwen Electric Vehicle Charge Point - Parking Places (Pilot 1) on Lambeth St. Blackburn, Pringle St. Blackburn and Progress St. Darwen – a press advertisement was arranged, and the site notices displayed.

One letter of objection to the proposed TRO was received from a resident who lives on Progress St., Darwen. NB - There have been no other objections received.

Below are the main points raised in the letter of objection...

- 2.1 There is already limited parking for the residents in the evening and feel people waiting for an EV point to become available will only add to the parking problem.
- 2.2 We have a major problem with litter dumping and fly tipping in this area. [...] people often see fit to dump their extra bin bags, mattresses and whatever else in this area.
- 2.3 I strongly believe this littering and dumping will become worse as people will maybe visit the nearby chippy while they wait for their vehicle to charge.
- 2.4 This part of town has seen a steady decline in recent years, and this will only push it further down.

The response to each of these objections is as follows:

- 2.1 Regarding parking, the development of the EV bays on Progress St will bring some private council land into the adopted highway. This development will turn a space that would fit two horizontally parked cars into four vertical parking bays.

As regards the objector's point about people waiting, the EV bays will be relatively low power because they are intended for residents of the immediate area. Coupled with the nearby high-powered chargers in Darwen town centre and Junction 4, it would be suggested that the demand for the EV bays would be unlikely to be that high, to cause the need for people to be waiting.

- 2.2 Following the review of this objection, the Highways Authority will arrange for signage to be put up as part of this construction, warning offenders of the consequences of fly tipping.
- 2.3 In relation to the problem of litter dumping and fly tipping, the Highway Authority believes that this type of anti-social behaviour would decrease once EV charging provision is installed, with the fact that the area would be in-use by residents using the charge points.

The additional movements of the EV users will reduce the opportunity for someone to unload unobserved and therefore the introduction of these bay, is most likely to have a positive reduction in fly-tipping.

- 2.4 It is suggested that the installation of modern EV charging facilities into a residential area would be a positive feature for the people who live nearby. While currently electric vehicle charging isn't at a point of high demand, this is expected to steadily change over time, and in the future will become a major benefit to people who don't currently have access to off-street parking.

#### Further Background Information

A Council Officer tried to engage with the objector to provide further information and background. The objector openly admitted that he is anti-electric vehicles. During the conversation the objector commented that EVs were a 'waste of money' and that 'all EVs would need to be scrapped because the vehicles battery would be too expensive to replace'.

### **3. LAW**

- 3.1 The necessary legal powers to implement this TRO are within the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

## **4. DETAILS**

- 4.1 No risks arising from the proposed TRO have been identified. The proposal is of benefit to the social and economic well-being of the Borough, through its association with Electric Vehicles Charging points.

There is the intention that the TRO covering the Progress St EV site will enable to EV charging facilities to be able to be used as intended – due to the TRO parking restriction preventing none EV cars from being able to park within the EV charging bays if not actively charging.

- 4.2 This site is part of the EV pilot and results from the pilot will be used to aid the Councils application to the LEVI fund for £1.6million. If the site is not able to be used as intended, it may diminish the effectiveness of the pilot scheme.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost of making and advertising this TRO will be approximately £1,000.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That the Planning and Highways Committee:

Supports the officer recommendations that: -

- the objection is overruled.
- the TRO is made as planned.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
**CONTACT OFFICER**  
**DATE PREPARED**

Approved TRO Exec Board Decision  
Matthew Lambert – Project Manager  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2024