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| Your ref: |       |
| Our ref: | LPS001 |
| Date: | 14 April 2014 |

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the proposal by Lancashire County Council, to operate a Permit Scheme for Road and Street Activities.

**Introduction**

In accordance with regulation 3, Part 2 of The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007, I would like to invite your views on the attached draft of the Lancashire Permit Scheme (LPS) for Road and Street Activities.

Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, (TMA), introduced permit schemes as a new way in which activities in the public highway, such as works by the utility companies, the highway authority and those working on their behalf, can be managed to minimise disruption.

A permit scheme is an alternative to the notification system under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, (NRSWA). Currently utility companies inform Lancashire County Council that they intend to carry out works on the highway. Under the proposed permit scheme utility companies and anybody else, including Lancashire County Council, carrying out works on the highway will have to book time and space on the highway by obtaining a permit from Lancashire County Council (the Permit Authority).

**The Scheme**

The Lancashire Permit Scheme (LPS) will be a single scheme based on the successful scheme implemented by St. Helens Council.

The scheme will operate on all publicly maintainable streets under the control of Lancashire County Council in its capacity as Highway/Street Authority.

The legislation and guidance produced by the Government and the Department for Transport (DfT) makes it quite clear that a permit scheme must apply to statutory undertakers (utility companies) and the highway authority and/or its agents equally. In developing the LPS the authority has ensured that this requirement is fully met.

**Benefits**

The permit scheme will enable Lancashire County Council to improve the co-ordination of road and street activities which in turn will lead to a reduction of the amount of time and space these works occupy the highway network. As a consequence congestion and disruption to the free flow of traffic will be reduced.

As the permit authority will be able to reject incorrect or incomplete permit applications a more accurate register will result, as only activities that are to be carried out will be registered. This will enable the permit authority and activity promoters to co-ordinate and plan works with greater confidence.

Activity promoters will benefit from the knowledge that they have booked road space and, except for unexpected events, this is guaranteed, enabling them to explore the possibilities of joint working with other activity promoters and co-ordinate the timing of resurfacing schemes for example.

**Fees**

The level of fees that will be applied for applications for permits have been calculated using the DfT’s Permit Fees Guidance and Permit Fees Guidance Cost Matrix and they reflect the cost to Lancashire County Council of operating the permit scheme. Details of the proposed fee levels are given in Appendix A of the permit document.

**What happens next?**

By seeking the comments of interested parties through this consultation process, the permit scheme may be modified before the application is made to the DfT, to ensure it will be in the form whereby it has fully considered the views of all key stakeholders.

The consultation period runs until **Friday the 20th June 2014 at 5pm**. At the end of the consultation period, the responses will be analysed and where considered to be necessary, the permit scheme will be amended to take into account the views of the consultees. If, as a result of the consultation, the permit scheme is amended, a further consultation will take place to enable the consultees to see the changes that have been made. The length of this consultation period will be shorter and likely to be over a period of two weeks.

When Lancashire County Council has finalised the Permit Scheme, it will make an application to the Secretary of State for an order enabling it to implement the permit scheme.

Please complete the included consultation questionnaire and return this along with any additional comments to the addresses below. This must be before **Friday 20th June 2014 at 5pm.**

Electronically via email to: permitconsultationreplies@lancashire.gov.uk

By post to: Michael White

Lancashire County Council

Highway Regulation & Inspection Team, Room D8

PO Box 100

County Hall

Preston

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Thank you for your time and trouble in considering this document.

Yours faithfully

Michael White

Principal Engineer