

The Essex County Council (High Street, South Benfleet) (Experimental One Way) Order 2019

Statement of Reasons

The Castle Point Local Highway Panel commissioned a study to look into options to relieve the existing congestion that occurs outside of Benfleet Station at peak times.

With heavy traffic approaching the Train Station from all approaches it causes heavy congestion, whereby vehicles often have to reverse or mount the footway to let other vehicles past. These manoeuvres are not ideal as the area has heavy pedestrian traffic. In addition, there have been 2 collisions on the High Street since 2015.

One of the options was to introduce a one-way traffic system along High Street Benfleet. The Essex Highways have undertaken an assessment on the potential one-way proposal as a possible way of overcoming the congestion problem. However, the results show that the average delays on the surrounding road network could increase during the peak hours. Therefore, an Experimental Order would be the best course of action, rather than a permanent Order. The experimental Order could be cancelled at any point during the 18 months, however if successful it can be made into a permanent Order at the end of the 18 months.

Traffic counts and speed surveys have been taken prior to the introduction and will continue to be undertaken throughout the Experimental Order to ascertain if the one-way system is working and what impact it is having on the wider network.