

STATEMENT OF REASONS

for

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders for Far Gosford Street Area Scheme

The Far Gosford Street Area Scheme is a traffic management scheme to try to improve safety and traffic flows through the area. The scheme changes access arrangements, making some roads one way and making changes to the places where it is possible for vehicles to wait and/or load. The scheme includes the introduction of a red route along Far Gosford Street, linking to the existing red route corridor which connects the city centre to the M6.

A street news consultation was undertaken in July 2022. Drop-in sessions to discuss the proposed changes were also held on 12th & 19th July 2022.

In response to the consultation engagement exercise it is proposed to introduce the Far Gosford Street Area scheme in phases. The Council will monitor the impact of the first phase before considering whether to progress to phase 2.

The proposed changes are significant, therefore in order to be able to monitor the impact of the changes, the traffic regulation orders (TRO) are being implemented as Experimental TROs. The duration of the objection period to the ETRO is to be extended to 12 months, rather than the statutory minimum 6 month period. This is to provide the opportunity for continued responses from the public to be taken into consideration, as monitoring continues, and as potential additional phases are introduced. The measures used to install the scheme are easily movable or removeable if the need arises.

This statement of reasons refers to the phase 1 proposals.

The Director for Transportation & Highways has delegated powers to approve the publishing of Traffic Regulation Orders

EFFECT

1. This Statement of Reasons relates to the making of the following Road Traffic Regulation Orders.

- **City of Coventry (Bramble Street) (No Right Turn Revocation & One Way) (Experimental) (Order 2022)**
- **City of Coventry (Vecqueray Street) (No Right Turn Revocation & One Way) (Experimental) Order 2022**
- **City of Coventry (Far Gosford Street Area) (Red Route & Waiting Restrictions) (Experimental) Order 2022**

The general effect of these proposals will be to:

- i. Make Vecqueray Street one way, vehicles only permitted to travel in a northerly direction (for the avoidance of doubt, travelling in the direction

from Gulson Road towards Far Gosford Street), with an exception for pedal cycles

- ii. Remove the prohibition of no right turn from Vecqueray Street in to Gulson Road
- iii. Make Bramble Street one way, vehicles only permitted to travel in a southerly direction (for the avoidance of doubt, travelling in the direction from Far Gosford Street towards Gulson Road), with an exception for pedal cycles.
- iv. Allow vehicles to turn right from Bramble Street into Gulson Road
- v. Install a red route along Far Gosford Street, preventing stopping at any time except in designated waiting and loading areas
- vi. Increase the shared use parking provision (for permit holders & short stay parking) on Vecqueray Street
- vii. Increase the shared use parking provision (for permit holders & short stay parking) on Bramble Street
- viii. Increase the length of no waiting at any time on Grafton Street at the eastern end of the road (northern side of the road)
- ix. Increase the duration of short stay parking from 1 hour to 2 hours on Far Gosford Street, Bramble Street and Vecqueray Street

2. The Director for Transportation & Highways, has delegated powers to approve the publishing of all proposed Road Traffic Regulation Orders

REASONS

3. When considering whether to make a traffic order the Council is under a duty pursuant to S.122 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway having regard to the matters specified in S.122(2). It is considered that the proposals will assist to improve access and safety, by reducing the likelihood of potential conflict manoeuvres and changing vehicle access routes, the proposals will also improve the provision of parking.

Furthermore; it is considered that the proposals will affect the matters specified in S.122 (2) as follows:

(a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

Reasonable access to premises will be maintained; the proposals do not prevent access to any existing premises as alternative routes are available. The provision of a red route should also assist to secure reasonable access, assisting the flow of traffic on a route that is often obstructed

(c) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles

The traffic orders, proposed to reduce the likelihood of potential conflict manoeuvres and change vehicle access routes, together with the installation of a red route should assist to improve safety for all traffic. The red route should assist to facilitate the passage of buses (and other public service vehicles).

4. The proposed traffic order is to be implemented in accordance with Section 1(1), Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) as it appears to the Authority that it is expedient to make them –

- (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising
- (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians)
- (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs

5. The proposed changes and the authority's reasons are as follows: -

Bramble Street– One Way & Revocation of No Right Turn from Bramble Street in to Gulson Road

The proposed introduction of a one way traffic order on Bramble Street, whereby vehicles (except for pedal cycles) will only be permitted to travel in a southerly direction (for the avoidance of doubt, in the direction from Far Gosford Street towards Gulson Road), is part of a traffic management scheme to try to improve safety and traffic flows through the Far Gosford Street area. This proposal together with the proposed one way on Vecqueray Street assists to form a loop so traffic can still access all areas. The revocation of the no right turn from Bramble Street into Gulson Road will assist with movements through the area. The use of an ETRO will enable the effect of the changes to be monitored

Vecqueray Street – One Way & Revocation of No Right Turn from Vecqueray Street in to Gulson Road

The proposed introduction of a one way traffic order on Vecqueray Street, whereby vehicles (except for pedal cycles) will only be permitted to travel in a northerly direction (for the avoidance of doubt, in the direction from Gulson Road towards Far Gosford Street), is part of a traffic management scheme to try to improve safety and traffic flows through the Far Gosford Street area. This proposal together with the proposed one way on Bramble Street assists to form a loop so traffic can still access all areas. The change results in vehicles other than pedal cycles being unable to exit Vecqueray Street on to Gulson Road. The no right turn order from Vecqueray Street is revoked, which will result in pedal cycles being able to make this manoeuvre, to provide more choice of route/greater access through the area for cyclists.

Far Gosford Street Area - Red Route & Waiting Restriction Changes

The proposed changes to waiting restrictions are the introduction of a red route on Far Gosford Street, preventing stopping at any time except in designated waiting and loading areas. This is to assist the movement of traffic along Far Gosford Street, which is a bus route; vehicles stopping to wait or load/unload on existing double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) are causing delays to other vehicles, especially buses.

In addition, the proposal reduces the available short stay parking along Far Gosford Street and increases the shared use parking provision (for permit holders & short stay parking) on Vecqueray Street and Bramble Street and increase the duration of short stay parking from 1 hour to 2 hours on Far Gosford Street, Bramble Street and Vecqueray Street. This will provide an overall increase in parking provision.

The proposals also increase the length of no waiting at any time on Grafton Street at the eastern end of the road (northern side of the road), replacing approx. 25m of no waiting Monday to Saturday 8am-6pm. This is in response to issues raised by residents.

Details of proposed changes in Phase 1 & Phase 2

Change	Phase 1 October 2022	Phase 2 January 2023
Reversing the flow of the traffic on Far Gosford Street, making it one-way from Sky Blue Way to Bramble Street (travelling towards the city centre) and two-way between Bramble Street and Vecqueray Street	✗	✓
A bus gate at the Walsgrave Road end of Far Gosford Street, so only buses, taxis, private hire vehicles, and cycles will be able to enter Far Gosford Street from Walsgrave Road or Sky Blue Way	✗	✓
A new entrance for vehicles is already under construction from Gulson Road into Binley Road service road as part of the Binley Cycleway. This will provide easier access into Far Gosford Street from Gulson Road. Once this is completed there will be no left turn from Gulson Road into Sky Blue Way.	✓	✗
The existing bus gate on Gosford Street will be removed, making it easier for traffic from the city centre to enter Far Gosford Street at the roundabout	✗	✓
Changes to the waiting restrictions, including a red route on Far Gosford Street which means that stopping will not be allowed at any time other than in parking and loading bays	✓	✗
Increasing the loading bays and blue badge parking bays on Far Gosford Street. The short-stay parking bays removed from Far Gosford Street to be able to make the changes will be replaced by increasing short-stay parking bays in the adjoining side streets. Blue badge parking bays and loading bays will operate 24 hours a day	✓	✗
Bramble Street to become one way southbound – from Far Gosford Street towards Gulson Road – except cycles who will still be able to travel two-way. Additional short stay and resident permit parking spaces will be installed	✓	✗
Vecqueray Street to become one way only northbound – from Gulson Road towards Far Gosford Street – except cycles who will still be able to travel two-way. Additional short stay and residents permit parking spaces will be installed	✓	✗
The no right turn from Bramble Street into Gulson Road will be removed	✓	✗
Short-stay parking maximum stay will be increased from one hour to two hours on Far Gosford Street, Bramble Street and Vecqueray Street. Harnall Row parking (Sainsbury's) will remain one hour maximum stay	✓	✗