

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**for**

### **Hales Street Bus Gate (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order)**

The proposed bus gate on Hales Street is part of a traffic management scheme to try to improve safety and traffic flows through the Hales Street, Trinity Street, Cross Cheaping and The Burges area of the city centre by giving priority to pedestrians, public transport and cyclists. The scheme changes access arrangements, and restricts traffic other than buses, pedal cycles, hackney carriages and permit holders (which will include private hire vehicles) entering the area Monday to Saturday between 10am & 6pm.

Originally the proposals were to restrict traffic between 10am and midnight every day. However, this was changed in response to concerns raised following a street news issued in March 2023 and a 'drop-in session' on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, to discuss the proposed changes.

The proposed changes are significant; therefore, to be able to monitor the impact of the changes, the traffic regulation order (TRO) is being implemented as an Experimental TRO. This will also provide opportunity for continued responses from the public to be taken into consideration, whilst monitoring continues. The measures used to install the scheme are easily movable or removeable if the need arises.

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 (Hales Street) (Bus Gate) (Experimental) Order 2023**
- **City of Coventry (Corporation Street) (Revocation) (Experimental) Order 2023**

The general effect of this proposal will be to:

- i. Create a bus gate on Hales Street east of its junction with Bishop Street, which will operate Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm; the only vehicles permitted to enter/travel through the bus gate will be buses, pedal cycles, hackney carriages, or vehicles with a valid permit (for the avoidance of doubt, the existing one way (eastbound) will remain in operation).
- ii. Revoke the existing bus gate on Corporation Street, located west of the junction with Bishop 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 maintain necessary access and improve safety by reducing the volume of traffic travelling through the area and the likelihood of potential conflict manoeuvres between vehicles and pedestrians.

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 operate at all times, access is not restricted Monday to Saturday between Midnight to 10am and 6pm to Midnight or at any time on Sunday.

When the proposals are in operation buses, pedal cycles and hackney carriages can travel through the bus gate. In addition, a permit scheme will be in operation allowing permit holders to also travel through the bus gate when it is in operation. This will assist residents and businesses located within the area. Private hire vehicles will also be eligible for permits

*(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 order creates a bus gate, which reduces the volume of traffic travelling through the area. This will assist to reduce the likelihood of potential conflict manoeuvres. In addition, the bus gate will in effect restrict access to Cross Cheaping and The Burges where waiting 'through traffic' is causing delays to other vehicles, especially buses.

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: -

Hales Street– Bus Gate, Monday to Saturday, 10am – 6pm

The proposed introduction of a Bus Gate on Hales Street, whereby vehicles (except for buses, pedal cycles, hackney carriages and permit holders) will not be permitted to enter/travel through the bus gate Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 6pm, is part of a traffic management scheme to try to improve safety and traffic flows through Hales Street, Trinity Street, Cross Cheaping and The Burges. This proposal will reduce the volume of traffic, but still maintain access required by residents and businesses located within the area using a permit system. Using an Experimental TRO to trial the changes will enable the effect of the changes to be monitored

Corporation Street – revocation of Bus Gate

The proposed revocation of the Bus Gate located on Corporation Street, west of the junction with Bishop Street, will provide an alternative route for drivers who are not permitted through the new bus gate on Hales Street, to exit the area. Using an Experimental TRO to trial the changes will enable the effect of the changes to be monitored. However, it is anticipated that the number of users having to undertake this manoeuvre will reduce over time.

Bus Gate order to be revoked - City of Coventry (Corporation Street) (Bus Gate) Order 2015