

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**for**

### **CITY OF COVENTRY (CITY CENTRE HIGH STREET AREA)(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & NO ENTRY)(EXPERIMENTAL)ORDER 2024**

The City Centre Traffic Management Plan (CCTMP) aims to better manage the traffic within the city centre to remove unnecessary circulating traffic, resulting in improved bus service reliability, increased access for cyclists, greater priority for pedestrians, improved air quality and to facilitate the Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) Demonstrator track. The plan will be delivered in phases.

The proposed scheme for the High Street Area is one of these phases, which builds on the existing public realm scheme and the experience of the closure of High Street during the Covid pandemic. The closure of High Street gave greater priority to pedestrian movements in an area which can become congested by vehicles during the day, some of which are parked on the footway, despite existing waiting restrictions and enforcement.

The proposed scheme changes access arrangements in the following streets or parts of streets:

- Bayley Lane, Cuckoo Lane, Greyfriars Lane, Hay Lane, High Street, Pepper Lane, Priory Row, St Michaels Avenue, Trinity Churchyard

The changes include making some roads a pedestrian and cycle zone, only accessible at specified times by permit holders, the introduction of a No Entry into High Street from Little Park Steet and a Prohibition of Driving on part of Bayley Lane.

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. The measures used to install the scheme being easily able to be removed.

The Director for City Services 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 Order.

- **City Centre High Street Area (Prohibition Of Driving & No Entry)(Experimental) Order 2024**

The general effect of these proposals will be to:

- i. Create a pedestrian and cycle zone, which will prohibit access to motor vehicles on Bayley Lane(part), Cuckoo Lane, Greyfriars Lane, Hay Lane, High Street, Pepper Lane, Priory Row, St Michaels Avenue and Trinity Churchyard except for Permit Holders Only, Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm
- ii. Install a No Entry restriction into High Street from Little Park Street
- iii. Installing a prohibition of driving on part of Bayley Lane to prevent through traffic.

2. The Director for City Services has delegated powers to approve the publishing of 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 improve access and amenity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Furthermore, it is considered that the proposals will affect 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 as the pedestrian and cycle zone operates part time (Monday to Saturday, 10am – 6pm). During the restricted times a permit system will be in operation, allowing necessary access but removing superfluous traffic accessing and circulating the streets within the scheme. The prohibition of driving on Bayley Lane (part) does not prevent access to premises as alternative routes are available.

*(b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;*

Some of the roads within the area are narrow and cobbled and in close proximity to the Coventry Cathedral ruins

*(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 reduction of through traffic will still permit Hackney Carriages in the area and also improve the safety for pedestrian travelling to access public service vehicles.

*(d) any other relevant matters*

The reduction of through traffic will result in fewer vehicles and therefore a reduction in vehicle emissions

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:

Bayley Lane (part), Cuckoo Lane, Greyfriars Lane, Hay Lane, High Street, Pepper Lane, Priory Row, St Michaels Avenue and Trinity Churchyard – Pedestrian & Cycle Zone (Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm) except for permit holders.

The proposed Pedestrian & Cycle Zone will reduce the volume of traffic circulating along the above named streets, improving amenity, safety and access. There are many pedestrians who use the High Street. Necessary access will be permitted, and a permit system will be in operation.

High Street – No Entry into High Street from Little Park Street

The proposed No Entry will assist to remove conflict along the narrow, two way section of High Street on its approach to the junction with Little Park Street.

Bayley Lane (part) – Prohibition of Driving

The proposed prohibition of driving on a section of Bayley Lane, which will also include the use of lockable bollards, in proximity to St Mary's Guildhall will remove all vehicles from this narrow section to improve the access for pedestrians and cyclists as well as the amenity of nearby places of interest including Coventry Cathedral, Holy Trinity Church and The Guildhall.