**Norwich City Centre - urgent temporary changes to create space**

Over the next few weeks and months, the city centre will gradually come back to life as the coronavirus lockdown eases. The top priority is to create more space for people to walk, wait and cycle to minimise the spread of the virus. To help this happen we are proposing a number of things, from temporary road closures or part closures, removing street clutter and using signage to help people move about safely. We also recognise that owners of some cafes, restaurants and pubs would like the opportunity to create outdoor seating to help their businesses recover. Once it’s clear exactly how much space is needed for safe movement, we will be in touch about the licensing process with any businesses where outdoor space might be available

**Temporary signage**

You’ll have probably noticed the stenciling and temporary signs installed in many places to encourage people to walk on the left side of the street. This will reduce face-to-face contact when people pass each other. We are also discouraging businesses from putting advertising boards outside their shops and will remove those that form an obstruction and prevent distancing.

**Crossing points**

Several crossing points over the inner ring road feature central islands where people gather. We’re lengthening the time available for pedestrians to cross to reduce the numbers waiting in the middle and encourage walking over car use.

**Temporary Changes to exchange street and St Benedicts Street**

The next phase will be to make more significant changes to those streets where lots of people walk on narrow pavements next to traffic. We’ll remove redundant signs, railings and other street furniture as the first phase of a wider project to generally declutter the city centre. We’ve drawn up plans for temporary changes to Exchange Street and St Benedict

**Future proposals**

We’re also reviewing what can be done in Magdalen Street, St Giles Street, Upper St Giles and Surrey Street and will share proposals as soon as we can.

**Monitoring and modifying**

These changes are an urgent and temporary response to an extraordinary situation. The regulations supporting them will be time-limited and the physical changes made using basic products. We will monitor the effects so decisions can be made about whether they need modifying.

**What do you think?**

We would like to know how much support there is for these temporary changes before deciding whether to implement them. Please email any comments and questions to cityhighways@norfolk.gov.uk by Tuesday 23 June saying which street plan you are commenting on in the subject line. The plans will be changed if necessary as part of the temporary traffic regulation order process.

**Page 2 - Overview Map description**

Overview Map of Norwich City Centre showing the areas of the city where street improvement plans are currently being considered.

6 areas are highlighted in total.

Area’s 1 and 2 cover St Benedicts Street and Exchange Street, which is the focus of this current consultation and more detailed plans are included on page 3 and 4.

Area’s 3-6 indicate that further street improvement plans are currently in preparation for Magdalen Street, St Giles Street and Upper St Giles, Surrey Street and All Saints Green and will be consulted on at a future date to be determined.

**Page 3 - Exchange Street Map of Planned Changes**

The map shows the following information:

1. Signal timings will be reviewed to give greater priority to pedestrians at the pedestrian crossings situated at the junction of Exchange Street and St Andrews Street
2. Car park access at the rear of the Charing Cross Centre will be maintained
3. Time restrictions for loading (5pm-10am)will be introduced in Exchange Street, Lobster Lane and Bedford Street to match rest of city centre.
4. Vehicular access in Exchange Street will be restricted to loading, emergency services and car park. 3m clear space will be required for vehicles.
5. Taxis and vehicles loading in Gentlemans Walk, Gaol Hill and London Street will leave the area via St Peters Street and Bethel Street.

**Page 4 St Benedicts Street Map Planned Changes**

The map shows the following information:

* No entry from Charing Cross onto St Benedicts Street except for cyclists.
* Introduction of a one-way traffic system eastbound between St Margarets Street and Charing Cross along St Benedicts Street with contraflow cycling allowed. Allow 3.75m clear space for cyclists to pass opposing loading vehicles.
* The right turn out of St Margarets Street will be maintained but the left turn out of St Margarets Street will be restricted to access only.
* All vehicles exiting a side road or yard along this section of St Benedicts Street will only be able to exit the street via the Charing Cross end.
* The existing car club bay on St Benedicts Street in front of St Gregorys will be converted to a loading bay
* The existing car club bay on St Benedicts Street in front of St Lawrences Church will be suspended, along with all adjacent pay and display bays, with one third of the overall bay to continue to be used for the Beryl bike share parklet on a permanent basis.
* Current pay and display parking on St Margarets street will be converted to loading only, as will the bays opposite Numbers 80-84 St Benedicts Street. The current disabled parking on the otherside of the street in this location will remain.
* Timing of loading will be restricted to 5pm-10am in all locations.
* Current pay and display parking outside 94 St Benedicts will be converted to a car club space.
* Areas have been highlighted outside all bars, cafes and restaurants located between Ten Bell Lane and St Gregory’s Alley as areas where pavement widening and converting space from the carriageway should be given priority.