

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Traffic and Transportation
Subject:	District, Local & Town Centre Project: Guildhall Walk
Date of meeting:	Thursday 28 th July 2022
Report by:	Tristan Samuels - Director of Regeneration
Author:	Caroline Hopper
Wards affected:	Charles Dickens

1. Requested by Cllr Stagg

2. Purpose - To provide an update on work to make permanent changes to Guildhall Walk

3. Information Requested

Guildhall Walk (from Alec Rose Lane to King Henry 1st Street) has been closed temporarily since May 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) that was introduced under new government legislation. This legislation allowed local authorities to create additional space for social distancing, walking and cycling and to temporarily close roads. This section of Guildhall Walk was also identified as suitable for the active travel closure by promoting walking and cycling by the Authority's Safer Travel Team.

Since the TTRO was brought into operation, the pedestrian and cyclist use of Guildhall Walk has increased significantly. In Summer 2021, a survey sought feedback about the road closure from businesses on Guildhall Walk or connecting roads, residents living directly on Guildhall Walk or connecting roads, and visitors that travel to/through the area from other areas. In total 425 people interacted with the survey. Over three quarters (83%) of respondents reported that the temporary road closure had a positive impact on their daily activities or experience; with most residents, businesses and visitors wanting Guildhall Walk to remain closed to vehicles.

Reduced levels of vehicles and Guildhall Walk being a safer walking and/or cycling route, were amongst the top three positive impacts for all users of Guildhall Walk. Less traffic noise and Guildhall Walk feeling like a better place to visit were also provided as reasons for wanting the road to remain closed.

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Following this feedback, the project team have worked closely with key stakeholders to design a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for a pedestrian and cycle Zone on Guildhall Walk that will enable benefits experienced during the TTRO to be maintained.

The TRO has also sought to address issues raised, with access for businesses, emergency vehicles and other statutory exceptions, along with timed access for deliveries, remaining.

The TRO provides for a new day time taxi rank and disabled parking on King Henry 1st Street. Optioneering to consider additional parking provision in Exchange Road will be undertaken separately. The statutory consultation will be 21-days.

If the TRO is approved, changes will be made to the road to facilitate the order. Stakeholders will remain actively engaged in the design process. Usage of the new taxi rank will be monitored and if the rank is underutilised, then a further TRO to revert the space to additional on street parking will be considered.

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Signed by: Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
The Portsmouth City Council (Guildhall walk) (Pedestrian and Cycle Zone, one-way traffic and amendments to waiting restrictions (No 99/2022) Order	Transport
Guildhall Walk Road – road closure consultation 2021	https://yourcityyoursay.portsmouth.gov.uk/guildhall-walk-road-closure-consultation-2021/