

# **Proposed changes to the management of the City Centre Pedestrian Zone covering Princess Street, King Street, Dudley Street, Queen Street, and Queen Square**

## ***What are we proposing to do?***

It is proposed that access to the pedestrian zone will be restricted with controlled access between the following hours:

8:30am – 5:00pm and 10:00pm – 6:00am

During which time access arrangements will be as follows:

- Waiting will not be permitted at any time of day
- General loading/deliveries will be permitted between 6:00am – 8:30am and 5:00pm – 10:00pm only

Additionally, we are seeking to reverse the direction that vehicles travel along part of Dudley Street.

Finally, we are also proposing to introduce a vehicular access control system to assist with the management of the pedestrian zone.

## ***Why are we proposing the changes?***

It has been a longstanding issue that the city centre has relied on fixed signs to control access, which have largely been ignored and abused. Ongoing enforcement is undertaken across the centre to challenge and penalise those not adhering to the restrictions; however, the restrictions continue to be ignored.

More recently, against the backdrop of terrorist vehicle attacks across the UK, there has also been more emphasis to consider how to protect areas from such incidents. Several locations have been identified across the city as high risk, including pedestrianised areas and where appropriate measures are being introduced to manage this risk.

Reversing the flow of traffic between Queen Street and Bilston Street will also significantly improve the flow of traffic around the city centre.

Finally, following the successful reopening of the city centre in the wake of the Covid pandemic, it is the right time to review the management of the pedestrian zones to ensure the city is well placed for the exciting regeneration projects that lie ahead.

## ***When are we proposing to implement the changes?***

The council plans to advertise the legal Traffic Regulation Order in conjunction with the formal consultation period commencing 9 November 2020 and this will last until 4 January 2021.

Following this the council will consider all comments and objections and take a decision whether to amend the proposals or to proceed as originally proposed.

Works to introduce the Vehicle Access Control System would be undertaken through January and February, with testing and commissioning early March.

It is hoped that all changes will be completed and implemented by mid-March 2021.

## ***What is a Vehicular Access Control System?***

To assist in managing the Traffic Regulation Order, it is proposed to introduce a Vehicular Access Control System for the pedestrian zone. The preferred method of control is a rising bollard system that controls the entry and exit points to the pedestrian zone. It is intended to introduce two controlled entry points;

- Princess Street near the junction with Queen Street;
- King Street near the junction with Princess Street.

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Each entry point will be covered by CCTV, have signal control indicators to show when the bollard is rising/falling and have an intercom system to allow access enquiries to be made. Under normal operation, the bollards will follow an automated timetable, however, there will be remote control to allow emergency access during the restricted times.

Additionally, there will also be three controlled exits:

- Dudley Street near the junction with Lichfield Street (Queen Square);
- Queen Street near the junction with Princess Street/Market Street;
- Dudley Street near the junction with Bilston Street.

At these locations the bollard control will be automated to allow any vehicle to exit.

All equipment installed will be designed and manufactured in accordance with TOPAS 2510A specification. The following safety features will also be included:

- a Green / Red light system to enable clear visual warning;
- an audio system to provide warning of bollards during change of state;
- standard safety detection preventing bollards from rising while vehicles are within safety zone.

### ***Can I access the Pedestrian Zone during closure times?***

It should be expected that access requests to the pedestrian zone during restricted hours will be refused under normal circumstances. However, it is recognised that there are some businesses that require specific access as well as unforeseen circumstances that occur where emergency access may be required. As such any **authorised access** through the bollards, during restricted times, will be controlled from the Council's Urban Traffic Control centre who will grant access via remotely.

### ***Who has authorised access?***

The table below shows the permitted and non-permitted purposes that will be granted access during restricted times:

<b>Permitted Purposes</b>	<b>Not Permitted</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullion/Security collections</li> <li>• Royal Mail vehicles (collection from Post Boxes Only)</li> <li>• Emergency Maintenance (in the interests of Public Safety)</li> <li>• Emergency Service Vehicles where emergency access is required</li> <li>• Utility works</li> <li>• Highway Maintenance/works</li> <li>• Planned works (where works cannot be arranged outside of restricted hours and a permit has been issued)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General or scheduled maintenance that can be arranged outside of restricted hours</li> <li>• Deliveries/Loading</li> <li>• Taxis/ Private Hire</li> <li>• General Public</li> <li>• Disabled Parking (except to bays in Bilston Street)</li> <li>• Cyclists (except Princess Street)</li> <li>• E-Scooters</li> </ul>