



Statement of Reasons

The City of London (Prescribed Routes) (Road Closure) (Amendment No. 24) (Widegate Street) Order 2023

Proposal

The City of London Corporation will permanently restrict all vehicles (including pedal cycles) on Widegate Street from Monday to Sunday inclusive, between the hours of 11.30am and 9.00pm. This scheme was originally implemented in June 2022 as a trial under The City of London (Widegate Street)(No.1) Experimental Order 2022 dated 13 June 2022 (“ETO”) with the view to making it permanent, should the trial be successful.

Reason

The introduction of a ‘no vehicles’ restriction in Widegate Street, on the days and at the times proposed will improve the experience of people using this street, deliver public amenity benefits and preserve and enliven the character of street environment.

The scheme implemented under the ETO involved public consultation and monitoring. As a result, no objections or negative comments were received, and the monitoring showed no significant highway impacts. The scheme is now to be made permanent and is to be implemented in accordance with sections 6 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

When considering whether to make a Traffic Order the City of London Corporation is under a duty pursuant to section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), to secure so far as practicable 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 section 122(2) (the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises). It is realised that the scheme will assist to secure the safer movement of pedestrian traffic and reduce and prevent danger during the hours of operation. Furthermore, it is considered that the proposals will affect the matters specified in section 122(2) as follows:

(a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

Comment: The closure is after 11.30am in the morning until 9.00pm in the evening on Monday to Sunday inclusive and there are no vehicle accesses to off-street premises along this length of street. Servicing can be undertaken nearby.

(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 area through which the roads run;

Comment: A prohibition of motor vehicles at peak times of the day will aim to improve safety for all road users, including pedestrians. The prohibition applies to all motor vehicles, including access for HGVs, so the environment of the area will be protected from heavy goods vehicles during the hours of 11.30am and 9.00pm, when pedestrian activity is at its highest throughout the day and evening.

(c) the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy);

Comment: The City Corporation has a strategy to improve air quality and this scheme may make an improvement in this area.

(d) 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;

Comment: The proposed restriction will not impact on the passage of public service vehicles as there are no public service vehicle routes that use this street.

Thorough consideration has been given to the equalities duty of the City of London Corporation under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and an Equalities Impact Assessment/Screening was completed and reported to the City Corporation's Streets and Walkways Committee as part of the decision making process when this scheme was implemented as an experimental traffic order. Following continual monitoring and review, it has been concluded there has been no negative impact on those covered by the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act 2010 and no representations were received concerning such matters.