

**OFFICER DECISION REPORT – EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC  
REGULATION ORDER (ETRO)**

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**INFORMAL CONSULTATION with Chief Constable, Ward Members  
and Cabinet Member for Transport**

PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team, Highways and Transport Group

<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Kingsmead Square, Bath</b>
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	<b>Prohibition of Motor Vehicles (11am to midnight)</b>
<b>SCHEME REF No:</b>	<b>20 – 010A</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Kris Gardom / Neil Terry</b>

**1. DELEGATION**

The delegation to be exercised in this report is contained within **Part 3, Section 4** of the Constitution under the **Delegation of Functions to Officers**, as follows:

<b>Section A</b>	The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Divisional Directors and Heads of Service have delegated power to take any decision falling within their area of responsibility...”
<b>Section B</b>	Without prejudice to the generality of this, Officers are authorised to: serve any notices and make, amend or revoke any orders falling within his/her area of responsibility.
<b>Section D9</b>	An Officer to whom a power, duty or function is delegated may nominate or authorise another Officer to exercise that power, duty or function, provided that Officer reports to or is responsible to the delegator.

For the purpose of this report, the Director of Place Management holds the delegated power to make, amend or revoke any Orders.

**2. LEGAL AUTHORITY**

This proposal is made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which under Section 1 provides, generally, for Orders to be made for the following reasons, and in the case of this report specifically for the reason(s) shown below:

(a)	for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or	X
(b)	for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or	
(c)	for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or	X
(d)	for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property,	X

(e)	(without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is especially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or	
(f)	for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs, or	X
(g)	for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality)	

### 3. **PROPOSAL**

The Council will be introducing an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) in Kingsmead Square in Bath to prohibit all motor vehicles between the hours of 11am and midnight, seven days a week. There would be no exemption for access other than emergency vehicles, and the road would be closed by means of lockable gates.

To maintain easier access to, and egress from, a private car park on the west side of the Square, it will also be necessary to reverse the direction of the existing one-way.

Revised loading and parking restrictions are also required to support the experimental access restriction.

Plans 1 and 2 below show the proposals.

### 4. **BACKGROUND**

These proposals were originally developed early in 2020 but were put on hold as the impact of the Covid pandemic became clearer.

However, to assist pedestrians with social distancing during the Covid pandemic, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) was introduced which restricts access to Kingsmead Square between the hours of 10am and 10pm. The existing one-way was also temporarily reversed as described above but this is operational 24/7. The TTRO expires in January 2022.

These temporary access restrictions have been generally well-received by the local businesses, retailers and traders.

The opportunity was also taken to introduce two Parklets (seating) and additional cycle parking in Kingsmead Square. These facilities have been introduced in full consultation with local businesses, retailers and traders, and have replaced two on-street parking spaces and a short length of loading provision. Again, these measures have been well-received.

As the experimental 'prohibition of motor vehicles' restriction would prevent vehicular access to premises in Kingsmead Square for more than 8 hours in 24, it has been necessary to obtain permission from the Secretary of State for Transport to progress with the proposed restriction. This permission has now been received.

The objective behind the proposal is to improve the environment of Kingsmead Square in order to make it a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists, and as a first step to enhancing the area, possibly through a public realm improvement scheme in the future. The road is lightly trafficked already, with around a third of all existing traffic being associated with deliveries and servicing of businesses. Most of the ground floor premises are shops, cafes and restaurants, and the upper floors are offices and residential flats. The Square normally has unimpeded vehicular access throughout the day. Aside from the delivery and servicing traffic mentioned above, it is generally only used by motorists picking-up and dropping-off passengers or seeking on-street parking opportunities in Avon Street.

The 'prohibition of motor vehicles' will be introduced in January 2022 with the support of an ETRO in the first instance. It will be made permanent if the project is successful and dependent upon the comments received during the public consultation period.

It is proposed that the success, or otherwise, of the ETRO would be evaluated using the following methods:

- Stakeholder surveys, questionnaires and feedback;
- Business engagement, to include the impact on trade and loading activities;
- Before and after assessments of on-street activity, including footfall and cycling movements;
- Reference to existing guidance relating to the evaluation of townscapes and pedestrianisation.

## **5. SOURCE OF FINANCE**

This proposal is being funded by the 2021/22 Transport Improvement Programme budget.

## **6. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

The proposal requires informal consultation with the Chief Constable, Ward Members and the Cabinet Members for Transport.

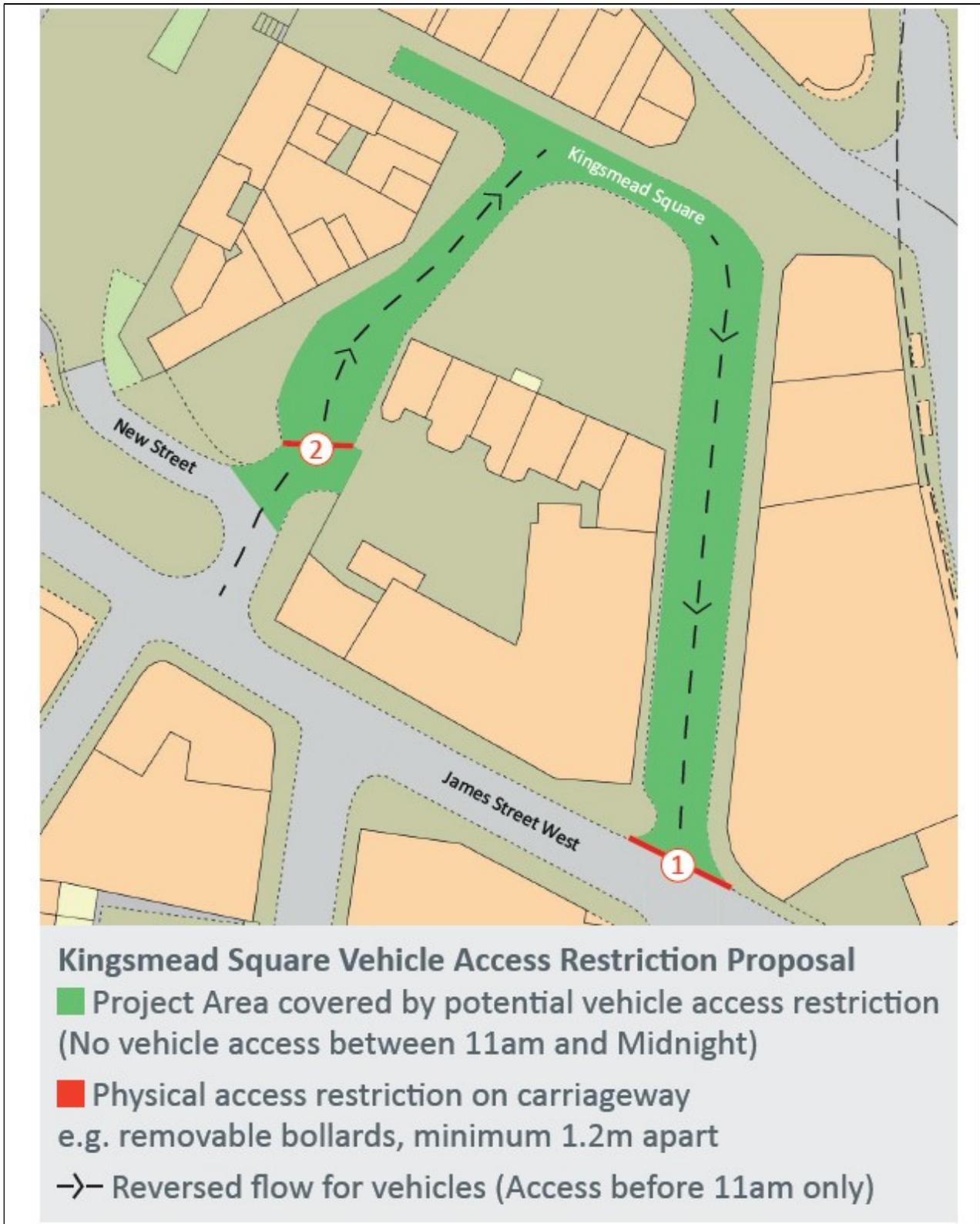
APPROVED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE, WARD MEMBERS and CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT.



Paul Garrod  
Traffic Management and Network Manager

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Plan 1 – ‘Prohibition of Motor Vehicles’ restriction and reversed one-way**



**Plan 2 – Parking Restrictions**

