

Subject:	Temple Street Petition		
Date of Meeting:	21st January 2020		
Report of:	Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Andrew Westwood	Tel: 01273 292468
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Ward(s) affected:	Regency		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The report sets out to detail the implications for closing Temple Street and what other options exist for managing traffic in the street.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees to advertise an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to reverse the traffic flow in Temple Street to reduce the impact of rat running in the street.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Temple Street is a one way road in which vehicles can travel from the south to the north from Western Road to Montpelier Place. Some vehicles choose to use the road to avoid waiting at the traffic signals at the junction of Western Road and Montpelier Road.
- 3.2 Major roadworks were carried out in the summer in Montpelier Road (B2122) by Southern Gas Networks that resulted in an increase in traffic choosing to use Temple Street.
- 3.3 Due to the works the road was closed temporarily following requests from residents and the impact increased flows were having on the street. This closure was implemented using emergency powers related to road works. The road was re-opened when the works had moved away from Temple Street as it was a temporary closure.
- 3.4 During the closure complaints were received from a number of the residents in roads leading off Western Road, including Borough Street, Norfolk Road and York Road.
- 3.5 The residents of Temple Street welcomed the temporary closure and following the completion of the works expressed their wish to continue with a closure through direct requests and a petition. A full closure would require a permanent Traffic Regulation Order that would need to follow the normal statutory

consultation period. A closure would require changes in signing, a physical barrier to through traffic and consideration of access. Both City Clean and the emergency services would still need to access the street.

- 3.6 While Montpelier Road was closed during the roadworks complaints were received from users of the surrounding roads including Borough Street, Norfolk Street and York Road.
- 3.7 The residents of Temple Street have also expressed concern regarding the air quality of the road as the houses open directly on to the street. Concerns were also expressed related to Heavy Goods Vehicles and motorcycle delivery vehicles
- 3.8 Temple Street is within the council Air Quality Management Area. Western Road is identified as a major contributor to poor air quality along the corridor due to the volume of buses and Heavy Goods Vehicles using the road. A full closure is not anticipated to provide a significant difference to air quality.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Any closure of Temple Street cannot be considered in isolation as any traffic that currently uses the road could then transfer onto other roads, York Road in particular.
- 4.2 Currently schemes such as this do not exist within any of the work streams that exist for traffic schemes. The funding to make changes and improvements to the highway comes through the Local Transport Plan. The plan includes a work stream for road safety that is targeted towards roads that have a poor safety record. Temple Street currently has a good safety record so would not fit within this work stream.
- 4.3 There is no revenue funding available to be able to carry out a full study of the area to understand the impact on other roads.
- 4.4 Physical traffic calming is no longer considered a viable approach due to the costs of implementation and the impact on both noise of vehicles travelling over humps and air pollution as vehicle speeds vary.
- 4.5 Introducing restrictions for Heavy Goods Vehicles is difficult as they rely on signing and are often abused so have little impact.
- 4.6 Reversing the flow of traffic would reduce the impact on the street as vehicles would no longer be able to avoid the traffic signals at the junction of Western Road. While they can of course still use Temple Street from the north down to Western Road the demand would be shared along with Norfolk Road and Borough Street. This option would also allow access for both City Clean and the emergency services.
- 4.7 Reversing the flow would also be a cheaper option as it would only require a signing change and can be introduced using an experimental Traffic Order. The impact on other roads would be less.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There was a community meeting where the concerns of the street were raised.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Closing the street will lead to more requests for closures as there are many streets in the city which are similar to Temple Street. A closure will transfer traffic to other streets and a wider scheme would require significant investment
- 6.2 After considering all of the options available the reversal of Temple Street is considered the best option at this time.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no specific funds available for a full study of the impact of a closure of Temple Street (as set out in paragraph 4). It is assumed that any cost associated with a reversal of traffic flow in Temple Street (the recommended option) will be absorbed within existing budgets. The associated budgets will be monitored and reviewed as part of the budget monitoring and setting processes.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jess Laing

Date: 03/12/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Under the Road Traffic Act 1984 the Council may make a traffic regulation order with a provision requiring vehicular traffic to proceed in a specified direction where it appears expedient to do so to prevent the use of the road by vehicular traffic in a manner which is unsafe having regard to the existing character of the road.
- 7.3 A traffic regulation order will be required to reverse the direction of vehicular traffic along Temple Street

Lawyer Consulted: Stephanie Stammers

Date: 03/12/2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 Engagement with residents of Temple Street has been built into the process from the start. The use and analysis of data and engagement have informed the proposal to ensure it meets the needs of the local population.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Background Documents

1. None