

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JANUARY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	CYCLING IN BROAD STREET - RESULTS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
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JOB TITLE:	STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME MANAGER	E-MAIL:	Cris.butler@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Sub-Committee on the results of the informal consultation on cycling in Broad Street.
- 1.2 Subject to approval from members of the sub-committee, the report also requests approval to complete a statutory consultation on the most popular option discovered during the consultation process.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - Broad Street location plan
Appendix 2 - Consultation report
Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report
- 2.2 That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out a statutory consultation on permitting cycling in Broad Street West as shown in Appendix 1 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

- 2.3 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.4 That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of movement restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

Background

- 4.1 In the early 1990's, Broad Street was initially partially pedestrianised resulting in the introduction of a cycling ban between the West Street/St Marys Butts Junction and Queen Victoria Street.
- 4.2 When the full length of Broad Street was pedestrianised in 2000, the existing cycle links on Broad Street East were retained to allow access via Cross Street and Queen Victoria Street to the north of the Town Centre. However, the existing moving traffic restrictions in Broad Street West remained, including the cycling ban.
- 4.3 The current prohibition of cycling in Broad Street West is supported by the existing pedestrian zone restrictions at the Queen Victoria Street/Broad Street junction. This part of the pedestrian zone includes a "No Vehicles" restriction and pedal cycles are included within this restriction type.
- 4.4 Enforcement of the current cycling ban in Broad Street West is the responsibility of the Police. Unfortunately, enforcement action has historically been difficult due to the current layout and inconsistent cycling message.
- 4.5 At the November 2015 meeting of this Sub-Committee, a report was submitted requesting approval to complete a consultation on permitting cycling for the entire length of Broad Street.
- 4.6 Members of the Sub-Committee reviewed the report, and decided that an informal consultation should take place first before any Statutory Consultation can commence. The members of the Sub-Committee agreed that the informal consultation should focus on three questions which were:-

- 1) *I support cycling along the whole length of Broad Street*
- 2) *I support a ban of cycling along the whole length of Broad Street*
- 3) *No change to the current system*

4.7 The Consultation started on Monday 9th November 2015, running until 31st December 2015. The consultation was available on the Council website, or written feedback was welcomed for those with no internet access

4.8 The results of the consultation is as follows:-

Total number of responses - 1283 (6 in written response)

- 1) Support whole length - 796 (62%)
- 2) Ban whole length - 448 (35%)
- 3) No change - 39 (3%)

More detailed information about the consultation is shown in Appendix 2.

4.9 Alongside the comments sent in through the website consultation, the Council also received three separate letters commenting on the proposal. One was from a resident supporting the proposal, and two from residents objecting to the proposal. It is not clear if they also completed the online form. One of letters objecting also commented on the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Report stating they did not agree with the outcome of the report. In response to this, Officers have now completed a full Equality Impact Assessment and this is attached as Appendix 3.

4.10 Based on the majority of consultation responses in support of permitting cycling the whole length of Broad Street, it is recommended that the formal Statutory Consultation now commences, and any objections be reported to a future meeting of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

4.11 It must be noted that if cycling is permitted along the entire length of Broad Street, there will be no segregation for cyclists and the route would continue as a shared facility for all users.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The delivery of the projects outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The proposals have been and will continue to be communicated to the local community through the informal consultation, the Statutory Consultation process, Council Meetings and forums.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any proposals for movement restrictions are advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council has previously carried out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

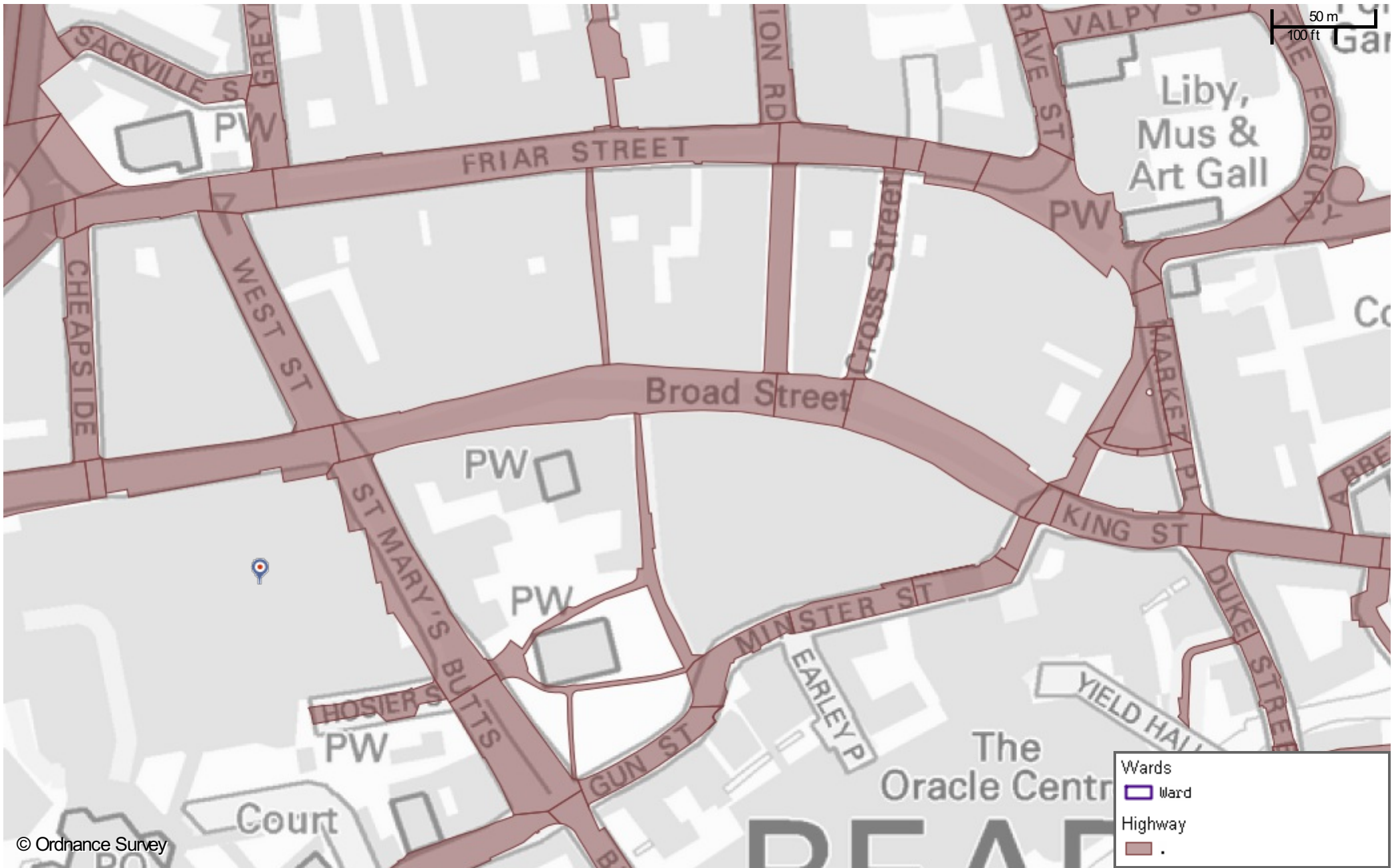
8.3 However, in light of comments received during the informal consultation process, officers have also completed a full EqIA and this is shown in Appendix 3.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The proposals will be funded from existing Transport budgets

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee report - November 2015.



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Broad Street - Cycling Consultation 2015

Overall 1277 respondents completed this questionnaire.
The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.
The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes.

* Which of these statements do you most agree with:-

I support cycling along the whole length of Broad Street (796)
I support a ban of cycling along the whole length of Broad Street (442)
No change (39)

Are you?

Male (779) 63%

Female (457) 37%

Which age group do you belong to?

Under 16 (9)
18 - 24 years (62)
25 - 34 years (228)
35 - 44 years (276)
45 - 54 years (290)
55 - 64 years (227)
65 - 74 years (138)
75 years plus (31)

Please indicate if you consider yourself to have any of the following disabilities /conditions? (Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term health condition which limits what you are able to do?)

None / Not applicable (991)
Mobility - getting around (77)
Hearing (71)
Eyesight (39)
Difficulties using hands / fingers (11)
Learning disability (12)
Mental health problem (21)
Other - please state below: (15)

Other

MS

asthma and parkinsons

asthma

I am an asthmatic and use my bike to keep fit and get around town, but the air quality some days is so bad it triggers my asthma. Having at least part of my early morning commute through a street with no cars

I am a wheelchair user

i have asthma

Slower reflexes due to normal aging process

Asthmatic

Do you have access to a car?

Yes (923)

No (326)

How do you usually travel across the borough?

Car (527)

Walk (586)

Bus (510)

Bicycle (665)

Train (138)

Taxi (74)

Other (30)



Provide basic details

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed: Review of existing cycling restrictions on Broad Street

Directorate: ~~Children, Education & Early Help Services / Adult Care & Health Services / DENS / CSS (delete as appropriate)~~

Service: Transport

Name and job title of person doing the assessment

Name: Cris Butler

Job Title: Strategic Transport Programme Manager

Date of assessment: October 2015 - Revised January 2016

Scope your proposal

What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?

To review the current cycling restrictions in Broad Street.

Who will benefit from this proposal and how?

Potentially all users of the Town Centre due to formal clarification of the current cycling restrictions in Broad Street. This is because currently half of Broad Street permits cycling (East end) and half of Broad Street doesn't permit cycling (West end).

Cyclists - if the result of the consultation results in permitting cycling along the entire length of Broad Street.

What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?

As above.

Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?

All users of the Town Centre.

Confirmation of cycling status along Broad Street.

Assess whether an EqlA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; promoting equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some (racial, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religious belief) groups may be affected differently than others? (Think about your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.)

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Think about your complaints, consultation, and feedback.

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

Consultation

How have you consulted with or do you plan to consult with relevant groups and experts.		
Relevant groups/experts	How were/will the views of these groups be obtained	Date when contacted
Traffic Management Sub-Committee	Through discussion, and encouraging feedback.	November 2015
Access and Disabilities Working Group	Presentation of proposals, and encouraged feedback through the informal consultation	November/December 2015
Older Peoples Working Group	Presentation of proposals, and encouraged feedback through the informal consultation	November/December 2015
Reading Business Improvement District	Presentation of proposals, and encouraged feedback through the informal consultation	November/December 2015
RBC Social Media	Promoted informal consultation throughout consultation process	November/December 2015
Informal Consultation on RBC website	Detailed information on reasons for consultation	November/December 2015
Traffic Management Sub-Committee	Proposal to proceed to Statutory Consultation	January/February 2016
Statutory Consultee's and any interested parties	Statutory three week consultation	February 2016

Collect and Assess your Data

Describe how this proposal could impact on Racial groups

None

Is there a negative impact? Yes No ~~Not sure~~

Describe how this proposal could impact on Gender/transgender (cover pregnancy and maternity, marriage)

None

Is there a negative impact? Yes No ~~Not sure~~

Describe how this proposal could impact on Disability

Cycling is already permitted in Broad Street East in a mixed pedestrian and cycling environment. The proposals if approved will formally permit cycling in Broad Street West. Initially this may cause some uncertainty for users of Broad Street who are not aware of such a change. However, this could help with clarity on which modes are permitted, and assist with overall awareness when using the shared areas.

Is there a negative impact? Yes No Not sure

Describe how this proposal could impact on Sexual orientation (cover civil partnership)

None

Is there a negative impact? Yes No ~~Not sure~~

Describe how this proposal could impact on Age

Cycling is already permitted in Broad Street East in a mixed pedestrian and cycling environment. The proposals if approved will formally permit cycling in Broad Street West. Initially this may cause some uncertainty for users of Broad Street who are not aware of such a change. However, this could help with clarity on which modes are permitted, and assist with overall awareness when using the shared areas.

Is there a negative impact? Yes No Not sure

Describe how this proposal could impact on Religious belief?

None

Is there a negative impact? Yes No ~~Not sure~~

Make a Decision

If the impact is negative then you must consider whether you can legally justify it. If not you must set out how you will reduce or eliminate the impact. If you are not sure what the impact will be you **MUST** assume that there could be a negative impact. You may have to do further consultation or test out your proposal and monitor the impact before full implementation.

Tick which applies (Please delete relevant ticks)

1. No negative impact identified
2. Negative impact identified but there is a justifiable reason
3. Negative impact identified or uncertain

What action will you take to eliminate or reduce the impact? Set out your actions and timescale?

If, following completion of the Statutory Consultation, it is approved to permit cycling along the entire length of Broad Street, alongside introducing the formal regulatory shared use footway/cycleway signs at regular intervals along Broad Street, further temporary signs and an awareness exercise will take place to make all users aware of the change.

How will you monitor for adverse impact in the future?

Regular updates will take place with existing user groups (Access and Disability Working Group, Older Peoples Working Group, Business Improvement District) to regularly review the change.

Signed (completing officer)

Date 4th January 2016

Signed (Lead Officer)



Date 4th January 2016