



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy

## Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> Mark Hand</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b> 07773 478579 <b>E-mail:</b> markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p><b>Re-opening Monmouthshire's High Streets – extension of the temporary trial measures for up to an additional 18 months</b></p> <p>In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, various temporary trial measures were introduced to our High Streets to enable people to safely return to support local businesses, creating more people-friendly environments and encouraging active travel. These measures were introduced via emergency Traffic Orders which expire after 18 months. It is therefore proposed to retain the temporary trial measures that are still in place for up to an additional 18 months using an Experimental Traffic Order. During this period, permanent changes can be designed up, consulted upon and, where applicable, funding sought.</p> <p>This Assessment considers the equality and wellbeing and socio-economic implications of extending the temporary trial measures for up to an extra 18 months. During that period, alterations and changes can be made to the trial measures in response to stakeholder feedback.</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area:</b> Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding</p>	<p><b>Date</b> 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</p>

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	<p>The temporary trial schemes were been developed through collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors and business representaives on the Business Resillience Forum and in June 2021 were subject to a series of town-based review meetings.</p> <p>The original aim of the proposals was to ensure our High Streets are safe for shoppers to return and support local businesses during the pandemic. Pedestrian routes were widened where possible at pinch points to allow social distancing and queuing. Where kerblines were in the middle of widened footways, they were marked with re paint to highlight the level change. High Streets have since been enhanced with planters, parklets and outdoor trading spaces.</p> <p>As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic we are now considering what long-term changes should be made to support the regeneration and repurposing of our high streets.</p>	<p>Some on-street parking has been lost, either all the time such as in Monnow Street, Monmouth, or during part-time street closures such as in parts of Cross Street, Abergavenny, to pedestrianise areas or to provide parklets or seating areas for businesses to provide outdoor trading.</p>	<p>Live feedback will continue to be be invited so that temporary trial schemes can be tweaked, changed or removed as appropriate.</p> <p>We have mitigated the loss of parking bays by ensuring that accessible and convenient parking close to High Streets remains available in alternative locations.</p> <p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with limited mobility to rest and people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.</p> <p>Individuals continue to be responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining social distancing when legislation requires.</p>

<p>Disability</p>	<p>The temporary trial schemes were been developed through collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors and business representaives on the Business Resillience Forum and in June 2021 were subject to a series of town-based review meetings.</p> <p>The original aim of the proposals was to ensure our High Streets are safe for shoppers to return and support local businesses during the pandemic. The proposals have allowed communities to safely access local shops, which has benefited those who are without internet access/capability to shop, or who are lonely. Pedestrian routes were widened where possible at pinch points to allow social distancing and queuing. Where kerblines were in the middle of widened footways, they were marked with re paint to highlight the level change to thise with visual impairments. High Streets have since been enhanced with planters, parklets and outdoor trading spaces. Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with limited mobility to rest and people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.</p> <p>As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic we are now considering what</p>	<p>Guide dogs are not trained to maintain social distancing and the widened footpaths into carriageways will not be understood by guide dogs who are trained to respond to kerblines.</p> <p>Some on-street parking has been lost, either all the time such as in Monnow Street, Monmouth, or during part-time street closures such as in parts of Cross Street, Abergavenny, to pedestrianise areas or to provide parklets or seating areas for businesses to provide outdoor trading.</p> <p>Planters, parklets and outdoor trading areas pose potential obstacles to those with visial impairments or mobility difficulties. Care has therefore been taken with the siting of these areas.</p>	<p>Live feedback continues to be invited so that schemes can be tweaked, changed or removed as appropriate.</p> <p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Individuals will be responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>A net increase in disabled person parking bays is provided, with as many existing bays as possible retained. Audits have been undertaken taking into consideration potential increased distances and, in Chepstow, the difficult topography. This has resulted in the Bank Street spaces remaining available for use.</p> <p>In Abergavenny, access to 8 disabled parking bays at Cross Street is restricted by the barrier between 10am and 4pm Monday to Saturday, and many of these bays have been used to provide parklets or outdoor trading spaces for businesses or cycle parking. At</p>
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	<p>long-term changes should be made to support the regeneration and repurposing of our high streets. Some people with disabilities may continue to have increase vulnerability to coronavirus and/or be unable to be vaccinated, making social distancing important still.</p>		<p>present, if accessed before 10am, blue badge holders can park in the remaining bays all day and exit via Market Street. An additional 17 disabled parking bays have been provided at Tiverton Place. The disabled bays at the end of Frogmore Street remain available for use.</p> <p>In Chepstow, 10 additional disabled person bays have been provided in Welsh Street car park. The disabled person bays on Bank Street remain available for use by allowing blue badge holders access into the road closure area although alternative options are being considered in response to feedback from stakeholders including people with disabilities. A meeting was held with a newly forming disability action group to view and discuss concerns about obstructions and accessibility, and as a result signs and planters were relocated, amendments are proposed to disabled parking provision at the Castle Dell car park and additional spaces on Upper Nelson Street, and the 1 hour limit on Bank Street is to be changed to 3</p>
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Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
			<p>hours. Dialogue with this group will be ongoing.</p> <p>In Monmouth, 12 additional disabled person spaces have been provided at Cornwall House car park. All but one disabled bay has been retained on Monnow Street and Blestium Street as part of the current temporary trial layout. Signing and lining has now been completed to allow for enforcement, which is being proactively targeted to ensure the bays are not abused and remain available for those who need them.</p> <p>The Council's Equalities Officer now sits on the Events Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) to help ensure access issues are fully considered when events are planned.</p>
Gender reassignment	No impact		
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact		

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	<p>The scheme widens the pedestrian areas which will assist parents using prams/pushchairs or pregnant people wishing to ensure social distancing.</p> <p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people to rest and feed children.</p>	Planters, parklets and outdoor trading areas pose potential obstacles to those with pushchairs or prams. Care has therefore been taken with the siting of these areas.	<p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Individuals remain responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining distancing.</p>
Race	No impact		
Religion or Belief	No impact		
Sex	No impact		
Sexual Orientation	No impact		
Welsh Language	Signage is proportionate to avoid physical and visual clutter. Highway signs will be DfT approved and bilingual.		

## 2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b></p>	<p>The Social Justice strategy focuses on three main areas: tackling loneliness and isolation; tackling poverty and promoting equitable economic prosperity; and giving children the best start in life.</p> <p>People on low incomes or in poverty may not have internet access or be able to make non-cash payments. Supporting our High Streets will enable them to safely access a range of shops and services.</p> <p>Retail and hospitality businesses provide a significant number of valued job opportunities. Supporting people to shop locally and buy goods and services locally supports the retention of those jobs.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.</p>


**3. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!







Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The trial changes seek to create a safe and attractive environment for shoppers and visitors to support local businesses. Creating such an environment is widely used to support retail, services, hospitality outlets which in turn attracts businesses and subsequent employment whilst adding to the general appearance of prosperity and vitality in a town centre.</p>	<p>A marketing campaign has been run alongside the physical works. Live feedback continues to be sought on the trial changes, allowing for tweaks, changes, additions and removal as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The trial changes seek to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists and will hopefully encourage active travel instead of car use. The planters provide additional trees and flowers for pollinators.</p>	<p>WG funding bid has been secured for wider active travel improvements and for regeneration enhancements and grants to support local businesses.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The trial changes seek to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists as well as support businesses. Active travel is being promoted and supported by government as a way to engender a healthier lifestyle.</p>	<p>The proposals are trials and live feedback is welcomed to enable schemes to be tweaked, added to, changed or removed as appropriate. If measures are successful consideration can be given to making them permanent, following consultation.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>To be successful our High Streets need to be safe and attractive for residents and visitors. To achieve this there must be space to facilitate social distancing and the potential for licenced outdoor seating to cafés, bars and restaurants to appeal to a wide section of society with all generations being comfortable in the environment.</p>	
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b></p>	<p>The trial changes seek to support the economic health of our High Streets. Measures to ensure</p>	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	pedestrian safety and to encourage active travel will encourage people to adopt a more healthy lifestyle through walking and cycling.	
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Monmouthshire is a county of historic market towns blessed with high quality independent traders and tourism attractions. As such, it is important that our towns and villages are safe and attractive to visitors and tourism, being places where people are safe and confident visiting and spend some time.	
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Monmouthshire has a greater proliferation of small businesses than any other county in Wales. Creating an environment to support those seeking to invest or expand in retail thereby adding to the prosperity of our towns benefit from this project	Effective dialogue has been started with a newly forming disability action group in Chepstow, which is helping us ensure decisions fully consider the needs of those with disabilities.

#### 4. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p><b>Long Term</b></p>	The trial measures have enabled visitors and shoppers to safely socially distance during the pandemic. The focus is now on longer term High Street regeneration and vitality and creating more people-friendly places. Retaining the temporary trial measures for the extended period will enable them to be thoroughly tested and for potential permanent changes to be designed up and consulted on.	Live feedback will continue to be sought to enable measures to be tweaked, added to, changed or scrapped as applicable.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="129 467 293 496">Collaboration</p> <p data-bbox="333 253 510 480">Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p data-bbox="546 253 1323 400">The proposals have been drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councils and business representatives sitting on the Business Resilience Forum.</p>	<p data-bbox="1352 253 2096 352">A series of review meeting have been held to discuss how the measures are working and provide an update on feedback received and changes made in the interim.</p>
 <p data-bbox="141 877 297 906">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="349 655 512 839">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="546 517 1323 1015">The proposals have been drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councils and business representatives sitting on the Business Resilience Forum. A community survey received nearly 1500 responses which have helped shape the measures proposed. A further survey helped inform active travel proposals to support town centres. Review meetings were held in June 2021 with County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors and business representatives to reflect on what has worked, what hasn't, what lessons can be learnt going forwards, and which, if any, measures have potential to be considered as permanent changes, subject to further consultation.</p>	<p data-bbox="1352 517 2040 584">Further feedback on successes and problems can be submitted via live feedback on the measures.</p>
 <p data-bbox="152 1292 293 1321">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="342 1054 506 1353">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="546 1054 1312 1238">The initial purpose of the proposals was to put physical measures in place to avoid health and/or economic problems occurring, i.e. communities are kept safe while businesses are supported. The focus is now on supporting our High Streets in a post-pandemic climate.</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The proposals seek to balance the competing needs of shoppers, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers (given the rurality, topography and demographic of the county it is appreciated that car use will remain essential for some people).</p>	

**5. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?**

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	<p>People experiencing poverty may not have access to internet shopping or non-cash payment, so ensuring high streets are safe to return to will assist their opportunities to access goods and services, as lockdown easing allows businesses to trade. Data suggests that there is a link between poverty and vulnerability to coronavirus, so a safe environment that enables social distancing is particularly important. Many people rely on employment in retail and hospitality businesses and the success of our town centres is therefore essential to their financial stability and wellbeing.</p>		
Safeguarding	Not applicable		

Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		
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**6. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

The proposals have been drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councils and business representatives sitting on the Business Resilience Forum. A community survey received nearly 1500 responses which have helped shape the measure. A further survey helped inform active travel proposals to support town centres. The measures have been adjusted over the last 13 months in response to feedback. Review meetings were held in June 2021 with County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors and business representatives to reflect on what has worked, what hasn't, what lessons can be learnt going forwards, and which, if any, measures have potential to be considered as permanent changes, subject to further consultation

**7. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

The aim of the temporary trial measures has been to support our High Streets and our local businesses through the pandemic. The trials have allowed brave decisions to be made to test different ideas and respond to feedback, and while the initial lack of community and wider business consultation has drawn some criticism, ongoing discussions and response to feedback has resulted in a set of trial measures that, at present, appear to be working well. The measures have sought to create people-friendly places that support local businesses and encourage walking and cycling. Outdoor trading, planters, parklets and banners have added to the vitality of our towns and anecdotal evidence suggests footfall has returned. The extension to the temporary trial measures will allow them to be fully tested and, where applicable, permanent changes to be designed, consulted upon and funding sought for delivery. Funding has been secured for footfall counter technology which will help monitor activity and success.

**8. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Continue to review of measures via live feedback.	Ongoing	Regen Team

**9. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.**

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>
1	Officer sign off of proposals, with agreement from Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure and Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Land Use Planning	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Amendments to proposals made during previous ten days from meetings with businesses and Town/Community representatives.
2	Project update as measures are amended and street furniture installed	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Review of parking provision and accessibility
3	Proposal to extend temporary trial measures for up to an additional 18 months	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	n/a