



Name of the Officer Mark Hand

Phone no: 07773 478579

E-mail: markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal

Reopening Chepstow's High Street to vehicular traffic

An Emergency Traffic Order was put in place in June 2020 to close Chepstow High Street to traffic except for blue badge holders accessing the parking bays on Bank Street and except for deliveries to businesses between 4pm and 10am. The purpose of the Order was to enable social distancing and outdoor trading during the covid-19 pandemic. In September 2021, the then Cabinet approved an Experimental Order which maintained this closure (or allowed for amendments) as a trial for up to 18 months. This was to enable time to explore and consult on options for potential permanent changes to Chepstow's town centre, with the intention of making the High Street more people-friendly, less car-dominated and better suited to the changing role of our high streets.

In March 2022, a first stage of consultation was undertaken to seek views on the long-term future of the High Street. The results showed a clear majority preference for the High Street to be re-opened to vehicular traffic. Based on a number of factors including this consultation response, the newly elected County Councillors for Chepstow and the post-election Steering Group for the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan (formerly known as the Chepstow Placemaking Plan) unanimously requested that the High Street be re-opened to traffic. This request is supported by the Cabinet Member for Economy and Sustainable Livelihoods.

Cabinet is now invited to decide whether or not to revoke the Experimental Order relating to Chepstow High Street. Revoking the Order would re-open the High Street to vehicular traffic as per the pre-covid arrangements

Name of Service area: Placemaking, Highways and Flooding	Date 11 th July 2022
--	---------------------------------

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	There is a potential perception that some older pedestrians and motorists might have found the trial confusing because the High Street was neither fully open to traffic nor fully closed to traffic. Re-opening the High Street to vehicles as per the pre-pandemic arrangements will return to a tradition pavement and carriageway arrangement.	Parklets and planters provided 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. These will have to be removed.	Where possible, planters and parklets will be relocated locally.
Disability	Some blue badge holders reported issues with being abused by others when legitimately driving up High Street to access the disabled person parking bays on Bank Street, because some people didn't realise they were allowed to do so.	Parklets and planters provided 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. These will have to be removed.	The net increase in disabled person parking bays provided as part of the trial measures will be retained. This amounted to 10 additional bays in Chepstow.
Gender reassignment	No impact	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?
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	No impact	-
Pregnancy or maternity	No impact	Parklets and planters provided additional street seating allowing expectant or new parents to rest and feed children. These parklets will have to be removed.	-
Race	No impact	No impact	-
Religion or Belief	No impact	No impact	-
Sex	No impact	No impact	While it is not considered that the trial closure (or re-opening High Street to vehicles) has a disproportionate impact on females, it is noted that 63% of respondents to the first consultation were female, and of all respondents, 1105 agreed or strongly agreed that High Street should re-open to vehicles while 552 strongly disagreed.
Sexual Orientation	No impact	No impact	-

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?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	<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>Supporting our High Streets will enable everyone to access a range of shops and services locally.</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>	None	

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?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The trial closure sought to create a safe and attractive environment for shoppers to return to our High Streets to support local businesses and enhance the prosperity and vitality in a town	

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?
	centre. Feedback from businesses suggests the closure is not supported and the benefits have not been realised. Unfortunately, the impacts of the pandemic and associated increase in on-line shopping, together with a reduction in traffic levels prior to lockdown rules being removed, potentially mean other wider issues are being conflated with the High Street closure.	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	The proposals sought to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists and to encourage active travel instead of car use. Re-opening the High Street to vehicles does not support these objectives.	The planters and parklets will be re-used locally if possible.
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The proposals sought 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. Re-opening the High Street to vehicles does not support these objectives.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The trial closure sought to create a safe and attractive environment for shoppers to return to our High Streets to support local businesses and enhance the prosperity and vitality in a town centre. Feedback from the initial consultation suggests the trial has not been welcomed: one positive of the decision to re-open the High	The Transforming Chepstow Masterplan (previously known as Chepstow Placemaking Plan) and the WG Transforming Towns grants offer opportunities for regeneration of the town centre.




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>Street to vehicles is that the majority opinion will have been listened to.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the impacts of the pandemic and associated increase in on-line shopping, together with a reduction in traffic levels prior to lockdown rules being removed, potentially mean other wider issues are being conflated with the High Street closure.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>The project is about the economic health of our High Streets but the physical health of our communities is paramount. Measures encourage active travel will not be supported by re-opening the High Street to vehicles. However, businesses consider that it will support them.</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>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 attractive to visitors and tourism. Supporting the vitality of the high street is important in achieving this objective. Opponents to re-opening the High Street to vehicles will argue that the move will be detrimental to the town centre's vitality and future. Supporters of the proposal will argue it makes the town centre</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?
	more accessible by re-opening a n important through-route.	
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Monmouthshire has a greater proliferance of small businesses than any other county in Wales. It was hoped that the trial would create an environment to support those seeking to invest or expand in retail thereby adding to the prosperity of our towns.</p>	

4 Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	n/a	n/a	-
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	n/a	n/a	-
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	n/a.	n/a	-

5. 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>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The trial closure has not been popular with the majority and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the majority view arising from the first consultation.</p>	<p>There may be future opportunities to explore alternatives but at this time, changes are not supported by the local community or businesses.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The trial closure has not been popular with the majority and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the majority view arising from the first consultation.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The trial measures were 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. However, the first consultation considering longer term changes has shown that the trial closure has not been popular with the majority and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the majority view arising from the first consultation.</p>	<p>The Transforming Chepstow Masterplan offers an opportunity for the community to help shape the town's future.</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 data-bbox="152 531 293 560">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="342 293 506 592">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="546 256 1326 628">The trial closure has not been popular with the majority and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the majority view arising from the first consultation. However well-intentioned, changes to support Chepstow town centre will only work if the community supports them. In the light of the consultation responses, the significant majority want the High Street to re-open to vehicles with many saying the trial closure deterred them from using the town centre.</p>	
 <p data-bbox="152 911 293 940">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="342 668 517 932">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="546 671 1267 868">The Council and Town Council are co-producing a Placemaking Plan and are seeking to engage with local businesses and the local community to understand and act upon their feedback where appropriate and possible.</p>	

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: 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?
Safeguarding	Not applicable		
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The trial measures were drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councils and business representatives sitting on the Business Resillience 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. However, the first consultation considering longer term changes has shown that the trial closure has not been popular with the majority and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the majority view arising from the first consultation.

8. 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 trial closure has not been popular with the majority of respondents and re-opening the High Street to vehicles responds to the results of the first consultation. Some respondents say this change will encourage them back into the town centre, which in turn will support local businesses. The proposal will not promote active travel over the use of private vehicles. It will however enable proposals for buses to stop on High Street again as part of a separate project, albeit that other options such as one way traffic or part time closures could have achieve this objective too.

9. 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
Implement Cabinet's decision to re-open the High Street to vehicles by revoking the Experimental Order	Asap after the decision is made	Mark Hand

--	--	--

10. 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.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet	11 th July 2022	