



Report to Aylesbury Community Board

Date:	13th September 2022
Title:	Report in response to petition – Cambridge Street
Cabinet Member(s):	Peter Strachan (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration)
Contact officer:	Carla-Louise Galea
Ward(s) affected:	Aylesbury North
Recommendations:	It is recommended that Community Board note the petition and current situation which prevents our taking the requested action at this point in time. Additionally it is recommended that there are further investigations on the opportunities to enhance Cambridge Street through place making interventions subject to funding becoming available.
Reason for decision:	Cambridge Street will be impacted by the public realm capital project in Kingsbury and Market Square

1. Executive summary

Buckinghamshire Council has received a petition (appendix A) from local residents and businesses requesting that the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Cambridge Street (in the centre of Aylesbury) is made permanent; allowing the street to remain permanently pedestrianised.

2. Content of report

- 2.1. The original Traffic Regulation Order was granted on 11th November 2020 expiring on 28th February 2022 prohibiting through traffic to proceed down Cambridge Street. An extended Temporary Traffic Regulation Order was granted on 28th February 2022 for a further eighteen months, expiring in September 2023. Buckinghamshire Council's rationale behind granting the order was to assist in the recovery of the local economy

(as set out in the Government emergency active travel fund) due to the Covid pandemic. It has widely been considered a successful road closure as the support for this petition demonstrates.

- 2.2. Buckinghamshire Council has been developing a public realm scheme adjacent to Cambridge Street for some time, this scheme was initiated by the Shadow Authority in February 2020.
- 2.3. It is anticipated that the scheme will address some of the current issues with town centre access and create a safe environment through the proposed landscaping and pavement treatments, together with a new traffic regulation order.
- 2.4. As part of the current proposals, it may become necessary to utilise Cambridge Street again as a part of the town centre road network. This is due to the objectives of the scheme together with the constraints on the local road network around both Kingsbury and Market Squares.
- 2.5. It is expected that the detailed scheme design will proceed to a cabinet decision in early 2023. The timing for the implementation of the public realm scheme is not yet been agreed.
- 2.8 At this stage of the design development of Kingsbury and Market Squares, we are unable to make the pedestrianisation of Cambridge Street permanent as requested in the petition. However the aspirations of the petition to improve the street are acknowledged and will be investigated as part of the project.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1. The council is committed to further investigations to retain the Cambridge Street road closure whilst still achieving the objectives of the Kingsbury and Market Square regeneration scheme. If this proves not to be possible options to enhance the environment of Cambridge Street will be investigated.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1. Finance

- 4.2. None identified however the petition requests improvements to Cambridge Street which would have a financial cost that is not currently budgeted for.

4.3. Legal

- 4.4. If Cambridge Street were to be closed to traffic permanently a traffic regulation order would need to be advertised and made under the provisions of ss1, 2 and 4 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the requirements of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Reg 1996.

4.5. The temporary traffic regulation order granted on 28th February 2022 for 18 months will need to be revoked and/or suspended should the effects of the order no longer be necessary.

5. Local councillors' consultation & views

5.1. Views sought through this report.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 Subject to approval of the Kingsbury and Market Square scheme, further engagement is planned with the residents and businesses of both Kingsbury and Market square together with other impacted local residents and business including those in Cambridge Street.

