

**The Essex County Council (Osborne Street, Colchester)
(Bus Gate) Order 202***

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The County Council is committed to increasing public transport usage and identifies that it is crucial to keep bus lanes free for their intended use to make bus travel more attractive to help reduce congestion and the environmental impacts of single use cars.

A traffic survey undertaken for 5 days over 24hr periods from 3rd May 2022, found that a significant number of vehicles are contravening the bus gate at Osborne Street at its junction with Stanwell Street and Vineyard Gate. This has an adverse impact on bus punctuality, leading to less reliable bus journey times, and presents more risks to pedestrian safety in the area.

The bus gate at Osborne Street at its junction with Stanwell Street and Vineyard Gate is currently not supported by a Traffic Regulation Order. It is proposed to formally advertise the introduction of a bus gate order and undertake highway improvement works including the installation of an enforcement camera, to deter unauthorised vehicles from entering Osborne Street from its junction with Stanwell Street and Vineyard Gate. It is intended that these works will improve traffic flow for public transport and enable improved enforcement with consequential benefits to road safety, congestion, and air quality.

The bus gate improvements are to be funded through the T45 - Bus Gate Enforcement Task Order and will allow the County Council to continue to fulfil their responsibilities under the Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984).