

# **The Essex County Council (Culver Street East, Culver Street West and Long Wyre Street) (City of Colchester) (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles) Order 202\***

## **Statement of Reasons**

The changes to the current restrictions are proposed as part of the works to improve the St Nicholas Street, Culver Street, East and West, areas of Colchester.

Colchester City Council have proposed revisions to the 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles' to provide an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists, to reduce traffic congestion, and to enhance the public realm in St Nicholas Square, minimising carriageway to create enhanced footways and public spaces.

St Nicholas Square forms part of a cycle Network to and from Maidenburgh Street and Ryegate Lane and into St Nicholas Street, Long Wyre Street and Short Wyre Street allowing access to various premises, including shops. An increasing number of people are taking up cycling as part of a healthier lifestyle, and as a cheaper more sustainable form of transport which makes a cycle network and cycle access even more important.

A number of local Councillors have been supportive of the overall ambition to support local businesses through the creation of more pedestrian areas that are safer for the whole community to enjoy, but particularly families, and those with less mobility. Within these spaces markets and other community events, can be held and this will hopefully find an increased footfall in the long term. Vehicles that have written authorisation will be given access to these areas.

### **Culver Street East/St Nicholas Street**

Access to St Nicholas Square via Culver Street East/St Nicholas Street will be overseen by the City Council and Colchester Market

Access will be for the loading bay and provided for users on:

- Northern side of Lion Walk
- St Nicholas Hotel bins (they have a loading bay on the High Street for deliveries)
- Licensed Market Traders facilitated by Colchester Market. Market Trading licences are issued and approved by Colchester City Council
- Any events activities that may take place in the square. These will be facilitated by the Colchester Events Company.

Use of the loading bay for loading only will be enforced by NEPP and patrols of the Town Centre are frequent so visits to the location will continue as they currently do - aligned to the new restricted times.

Colchester Market and Colchester City Council will facilitate access if the loading bay is in use.

Colchester City Council have secured central government funding enabling the project to move forward.