

8 June 2020

Dear resident / business owner/manager

Safer, greener, healthier routes in Colchester town centre – interim measures

Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council have been working together to design and implement a project to make town centre public spaces safer for people during the Covid-19 crisis. Called 'Safer, Greener, Healthier', the schemes aim to provide bigger, safer spaces in key locations for city centre shoppers, residents, workers and visitors to social distance in.

Please be aware that Essex Highways will start to install on-street temporary measures, including barriers, signs and cones, on roads in the town centre and the “corridor” to North Station, from Tuesday 9 June, coinciding with further re-opening of non-essential shops.

Some 20 mph limits, wider walking spaces and shared space for cycling and pedestrians will be implemented on the High St and nearby roads and on the route to and from the north station. A map is enclosed.

These safety improvements are funded by national government as part of the response to the Covid-19 situation, designed to allow people more space to social distance as people move around the town centre.

Essex is leading on introducing these safety measures quickly, while they have the maximum effect protecting people from infection and encouraging people to confidently use town centre shops and other facilities. Please look out for the signs and take extra care in the area in what will be a new situation for everyone. We should all show consideration for others. As shops re-open, we realise traffic of all kinds may increase, but this scheme has been prepared together with Colchester Borough Council and others and is a practical measure that we can offer quickly.

We welcome all feedback, comments and ideas from everyone who experiences travel in the area, and we won't hesitate to alter the measures quickly as needed. If they are successful, some changes could become permanent in due course, as part of our move to more sustainable forms of transport. We have started in Colchester and Chelmsford and then we will learn before considering similar measures in other towns in Essex particularly where town centre areas are busy with narrow pavements or other issues.

Thank you for your patience as we introduce these measures. Please help us to improve them with your comments, by email to: SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk

Please refer to the accompanying map; more scheme details will be made available on our website at: www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier

Yours sincerely

Cllr Kevin Bentley

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure
Essex County Council