

4 June 2020

Dear resident / business owner/manager

Safer, greener, healthier routes in Chelmsford City Centre – temporary measures

Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council have been working together to design and implement a project to make city/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 routes in the City centre from Monday 8th June, in advance of any further re-opening of non-essential retail businesses.

20 mph limits, wider walking spaces and shared space for cycling and pedestrians will be implemented on Duke St, Market Rd, Victoria Rd and New St. 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 city centre.

Essex is leading on introducing these safety measures quickly, while they can have the maximum effect on protecting people from infection while encouraging people to confidently use city 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 and other businesses re-open, we realise traffic of all kinds will increase, but this scheme has been prepared at speed 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 Chelmsford, with a similar pilot scheme to come in Colchester 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 distancing issues.

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

Please refer to the 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