

STATEMENT OF REASONS

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL (ASQUITH BOULEVARD, LEICESTER) (NO ENTRY - NORTH EASTERN ACCESS FROM ASQUITH WAY) EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER 2020 (TME 2955)

Leicester City Council has undertaken a review of Asquith Boulevard that runs parallel to and located on the south east side of Asquith Way. Concerns have been raised by local residents and supported by Councillors, that non-resident vehicles are rat running along this road by entering Asquith Boulevard from Asquith Way and proceeding south-west to the junction with Shackerdale Road.

Residents have also raised Road Safety concerns. Such as, vehicles leaving Asquith Way onto Asquith Boulevard after turning left they then tend to cut across the corner of the right-hand bend before heading down Asquith Boulevard. This action can increase the risk of a collision with other vehicles travelling in the opposite direction towards that bend. It was also felt that vehicles leaving Asquith Way can enter the junction at speed and the continue at speed along Asquith Boulevard. These two issues can contribute towards the increase likelihood of road traffic accidents, not only with motor vehicle but also with vulnerable road users.

In order to see what effect would be on traffic movements and potential congestion in this area. It is proposed to introduce an Experimental Order that will impose a No Entry prohibition from Asquith Way into Asquith Boulevard. The intention of the experiment is to reduce rat running traffic. But to also see how it impacts the volume of traffic at the traffic light at the junction of Asquith Way and Shackerdale Road. Would this add to delays during peak time, causing displaced congestion on the main arterial highway network.

As part of the Experimental Traffic Order on Asquith Boulevard, the mouth of the junction will be temporary narrowed for the whole period of time that the experiment is in operation. It is proposed that the experiment will be in for no longer than 18 months. During that time, the Council will consider any objections raised within the first 6 months of the scheme going live. Traffic sign informing drivers of the changes at that junction will be installed. These will include the following signs, No Entry, No Left Turn and a Mandatory Left Turn Signs.

If the council are satisfied that the Experiment has removed rat running and has not been to detrimental to the free flow of traffic on Asquith Way and that road safety concerns have been reduced. Then consideration will be given after the objection period to making the Experiment into a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in line with the TRO procedures for England and Wales. Ensuring that any unresolved objections are given due regard before making a formal decision to proceed or abandon.