

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

The Connecting Leicester programme has already delivered a number of major transport improvements which have reconnected and strengthened the city as a place to visit for business, shopping, leisure and cultural purposes. The work focuses on major sustainable transport improvements to provide attractive choices for people to get to work, education, local and other facilities supporting the city's growth and deliver on the council's climate emergency, air quality and healthy living commitments.

The **St Margaret's** Gateway scheme has secured funding to redevelop the bus station and improve the surrounding highway to provide enhanced connectivity to the wider transport improvements that have already been made in and around the city centre and to other schemes that are currently in development. Highway improvement works are to be carried out at the **Burleys Way/Abbey Street** junction, **Abbey Street**, **Gravel Street**, **New Road** and **Mansfield Street**. The upcoming highway improvements will improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists through the provision a new pedestrian super crossing across **Burleys Way** to replace the recently removed footbridge, a cycle hub at the new bus station and public realm improvements. They will also provide improved corridors for public transport movements due to the reduction of other traffic in this area of the city centre.

The Council has now made a new Traffic Regulation Order the effect of which will be to introduce the following restrictions on traffic movement on various roads in the vicinity of St Margaret's bus station:

**Abbey Street**, from its junction with **Gravel Street**, will become One Way north-eastwards, towards **Burleys Way**. Vehicles will be able to exit both left and right onto **Burleys Way** from **Abbey Street** but the right and left turns from **Burleys Way** into **Abbey Street** will be removed. This allows the creation of the pedestrian super crossing on **Burleys Way** and associated cycle and footway improvements on **Abbey Street**. **Abbey Street** from **Belgrave Gate** to **Gravel Street** will remain two way. Both **Gravel Street** and **Sandacre Street** will remain one way.

**Mansfield Street** will remain one way but vehicles will only be permitted to turn left onto **Abbey Street** though, as a part of the upcoming improvement works on Abbey Street, a dropped kerb will be provided in the central reservation of **Abbey Street** to allow emergency service vehicles and taxis only to turn right out of Mansfield Street to gain access to **Belgrave Gate**.

**Garden Street** will remain one way from **Abbey Street** to **Belgrave Gate**, thereby allowing vehicles from **Abbey Street** and **Mansfield Street** to access property and the parking in this area.

Both the entry and exit point to/from St Margaret's Bus Station located at the **Abbey/Gravel Street** junction and **New Road** will be updated to Bus Gates that operate at all times, on all days. Access to the bus station will be limited to buses and other authorised vehicles.

Please see attached Plan: - LCC-SMGS-TRO-2020-001 Rev 'C'

Proposals to introduce measures to assist bus movements and amendments to the existing waiting and loading restrictions on Gravel Street and Abbey Street will be the subject of a separate consultation exercise to be carried out in the next few weeks.