

COVID-19 Post-Lockdown Highway Schemes

Appendix	3
Location	Area bounded by Southwark Bridge Road to East, Borough Road to the South, Blackfriars Road to West and Southwark Street to North.
Proposal	Great Suffolk Street Low Traffic Neighbourhood including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-way only on Great Suffolk Street, Lavington Street, Union Street, Surrey Row, Webber Street, Sawyer Street, Great Guildford Street.• Banned turns out of Great Suffolk Street, Southwark Street, Copperfield street, Loman Street, Farnham Street, Great Guildford Street, Copperfield Street, Bear Lane, Sumner Street and Surrey Row
Ward(s) affected	Borough & Bankside

Background / Request

The Council's transport response to Covid-19 include providing active travel measures to make it easier to walk, cycle and use public transport, whilst removing through traffic especially as the lockdown movement restrictions are reduced.

Part of these measures includes acceleration of measures proposed under London Cycle Grid Phase 2 programme which focuses on the cycle route along Great Suffolk Street. This has been requested through the Southwark Streetspace Commonplace map that include the following key areas:

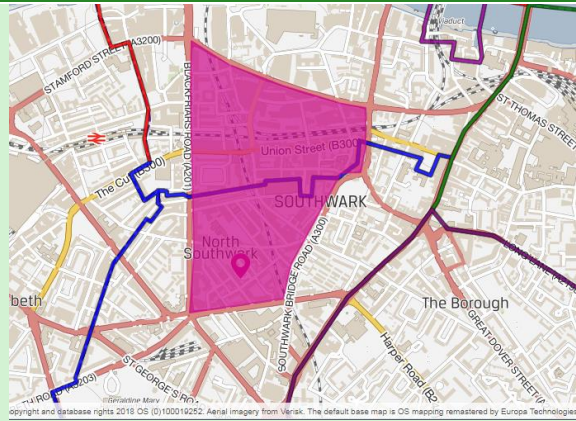
- Not enough space for social distancing
- Need more space for cycling
- Need wider pavements
- Pinch points for people walking and cycling
- Slow down traffic
- Need to close streets to drivers
- High volume of traffic
- High volume of traffic for key cycle route
- Bad air quality

From these requests, we have reviewed traffic movements in the area bounded by Southwark Bridge Road, Borough Road, Blackfriars Road, Southwark Street that includes:

- Reviewing access and egress arrangements to minimise cut-through journeys.
- Minimising traffic on Great Suffolk Street to allow cyclists that use this route to connect existing cycleways in the area more safely.
- Reducing traffic movements and limiting traffic to one-way where possible to allow space for future walking and cycling schemes.

Following the 18-month trial, it is expected that these measures will be made permanent and additional measures to support walking and cycling will be implemented by making use of the increased space.

Location



- To the north of Surrey Row, this cell lies within Bankside Zone C1 CPZ, which operates from Mon-Fri 8.00am to 6.30pm and Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm. To the south of Surrey Row, this cell lies within Bankside Zone C2 CPZ, which operates from Mon-Fri 8.00am to 6.30pm.
- Southwark Street, Southwark Bridge Road and Blackfriars Road form part of the Council's strategic road network

Investigation and conclusions

- Great Suffolk Street has been identified as a key cycling route as it connects cycleways CS7, Q1 and C4. It is also a popular walking route providing access to the Tate Modern on Sumner Street.
- Great Suffolk Street and the surrounding area have a number of known cut-through routes for vehicles. In these locations, traffic is leaving the main roads and entering the scheme area to avoid queuing at signals at junctions. These routes were already known to us or have been raised on the Southwark Streetspace Commonplace map.
- This volume of traffic, combined with wide lanes and narrow footways, has resulted in high density of traffic and speeding of vehicles which is discouraging walking and cycling, and making active travel less safe.
- In the wake of Covid-19, Southwark are focused on promoting active travel within the borough, to prevent a car-led recovery, and ensure social distancing can be maintained on footways and cycleways.
- There are already a high number of cyclists using the existing cycle routes, and these numbers noticeably increased following the lockdown measures implemented in response to the Covid-19 emergency. Even as the lockdown measures are relaxed, it is envisaged that the increased levels of cycling will be maintained for the foreseeable future as people continue to use cycling as their preferred mode of transport.

It has been agreed that an appropriate response will be to create a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood' style scheme in the area around Great Suffolk Street. These measures are being introduced using experimental orders with the intention that, following a successful trial period these measures would be made permanent.

Recommendation

Based on observation and community feedback, it is recommended that a Low Traffic Neighbourhood style scheme be implemented on Great Suffolk Street and the surrounding area. This will minimise through traffic and create space for future walking and cycling interventions. It will also create a safer and more pleasant area for active transport in-line with Healthy Streets criteria.

This proposal is subject to an experimental traffic management order (TMO) where the statutory consultation is carried out after implementation. A TMO is the legal mechanism the council as traffic authority uses to control aspects of the way that the highway is used. They provide the legal backing to signs and road markings used on the highway and allow them to be enforceable.

A preliminary design drawing of the proposal is provided within this document.

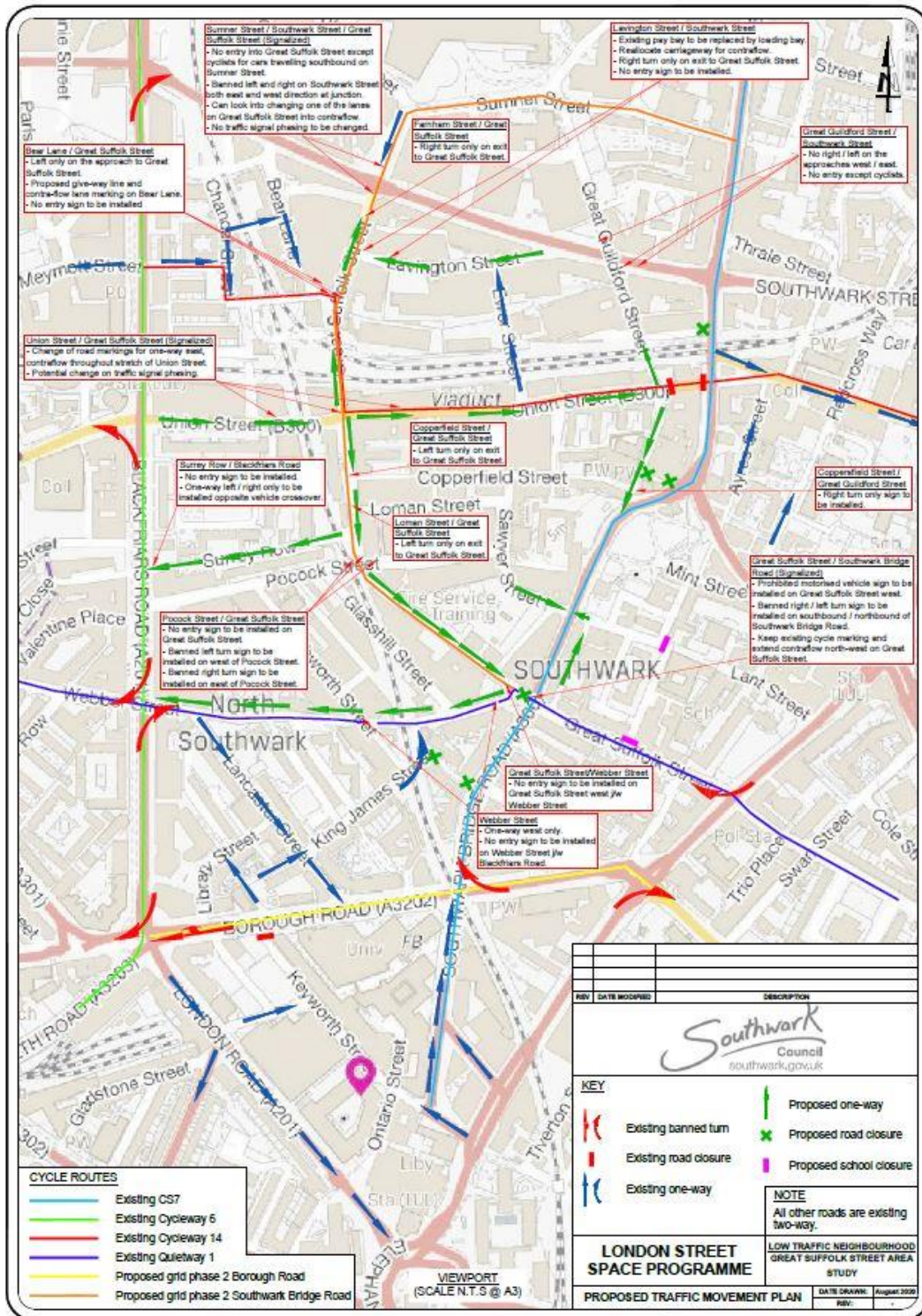
Next steps

Should this non-strategic Traffic and Highway improvement proposal be approved, then arrangement will be made to carry out detailed design. Following implementation there will be a consultation period of six months when any representations received will be recorded.

Should objections be received during the consultation period, these will be presented to the Cabinet Member for consideration if it is recommended to make the measures permanent. If no long term benefits can be seen from the scheme the council may opt to remove the measures after the trial period.

Audit trail

Reference	3
Report author	Rebecca Barkham
Ward members notified	Yes



CYCLE ROUTES

—	Existing CS7
—	Existing Cycleway 6
—	Existing Cycleway 14
—	Existing Quietway 1
—	Proposed grid phase 2 Borough Road
—	Proposed grid phase 2 Southwark Bridge Road

 Southwark Council southwark.gov.uk												
KEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Proposed one-way X Proposed road closure █ Proposed school closure 											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Existing banned turn █ Existing road closure ↑ Existing one-way 	<p>NOTE All other roads are existing two-way.</p> <p>LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD GREAT SUFFOLK STREET AREA STUDY</p> <p>LONDON STREET SPACE PROGRAMME</p> <p>PROPOSED TRAFFIC MOVEMENT PLAN</p>											
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