

Cllr. Richard Livingstone
Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the
Climate Emergency

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Dear Southwark resident,

Experimental transport measures in the Walworth Road area

The Covid-19 pandemic has required us to introduce measures that fundamentally alter people's travel patterns and the ways in which we use Southwark's streets and spaces. Across Southwark, we are taking action to fast-track a variety of transport measures that support increased walking and cycling, allow social distancing, maintain the perceived lower levels of air pollution, and prevent motor vehicle traffic levels from rising.

The Walworth area has been identified as a priority, as it receives a very high volume of through traffic. The 'Our Healthy Walworth' engagement project has shown community support for the principles of a low-traffic neighbourhood. We have used this response to develop interventions that can be installed quickly and trialled to provide safer routes through the area for socially distanced, active travel.

These are experimental measures – we will be required to conduct full public consultation before these are made permanent, and within eighteen months from installation. In practice, the timescales are likely to be considerably shorter and one option will of course be to return the highway arrangements to the original state if the trial is not deemed to be successful.

We will be monitoring the impact of these changes throughout that period, using counts of motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, we are inviting residents to let us know about the impact on the streets they use – whether positive or negative – on the feedback map at <https://walworthstreetspace.commonplace.is>. You are also able to sign up there for regular updates on this project. The site will be live once the measures have been installed.

These are unprecedented times – in collaboration with central government and Transport for London we are taking these urgent steps to ensure the health and safety of our residents. We remain committed to working with you to ensure that all the measures we take work for local people and contribute to enhanced quality of life both at this difficult time and in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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