



**Directorate for Planning, Growth & Sustainability
Strategic Transport and Infrastructure**

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Dear Resident,

Emergency Active Travel Scheme – Southcourt

As you are aware, in November 2020 a trial scheme was implemented in Southcourt, through the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund to help improve links between Southcourt, the town centre and Stoke Mandeville, through the severed Jet Way and improving links to some of the existing Gemstone routes. This is part of the Government's longer-term strategy to encourage more people to walk and cycle, which in turn can support reducing congestion and improved air quality as well as improved public health.

Covid-19 restrictions mean we have been unable to carry out a public consultation to understand all viewpoints, particularly from those living in the vicinity of the scheme. We are aware of strong views both for and against the scheme but have been unable to engage directly due to the restrictions in place, and have been reliant on feedback received, rather than being able to approach local residents directly.

Since the scheme was introduced, we have held monthly review meetings with Buckinghamshire Council Officers, local Aylesbury Town Councillors and local Buckinghamshire Councillors and Cabinet Members to review feedback, usage data and to monitor and discuss the scheme. This, combined with our online feedback form and other communication avenues, has enabled us to adjust the scheme in locations following direct feedback received. We are currently reviewing potential additional adjustments to be carried out over the coming weeks.

Following discussions with the above groups and the Cabinet Members for Transport and Sport and Leisure, it has been agreed to extend the duration of the trial scheme to mid-June 2021, when a further review will be undertaken. This extension will enable a consultation to be undertaken, as well as monitoring usage during the warmer months. Whilst the duration of the trial scheme has been extended, the scheme is temporary, and we will continue to use feedback to help make adjustments to the scheme and to understand local views.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Feedback can be provided directly, via our website <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/active-travel> or via email, to transportstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Information on the consultation will be communicated in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Joan Hancox

Service Director – Strategic Transport and Infrastructure, Planning, Growth & Sustainability