The Mayor of London made it a key pledge in his manifesto to pedestrianise the entire length of Oxford Street. Even though the street is the responsibility of Westminster City Council as the Highway Authority, the Mayor could invoke powers to take over the street should he wish to do so.

Therefore, to ensure the views of our residents are heard, we have initially supported the Mayor’s proposal to consult on the proposed pedestrianisation of Oxford Street West from Orchard Street to Oxford Circus but ONLY on the basis that a number of safeguards are incorporated into the plans. These safeguards are what we call “Our Eight Pledges” to our residents and businesses.

The first consultation last year made it clear that 43 per cent of those who responded supported transformation, a further 19 per cent were in support but had concerns and 30 per cent aren’t in favour. As we now take our time to look carefully at the thousands of responses we have had to the second consultation, that closed on 3rd January, we wanted to set out Westminster Council’s total commitment to local people.

Having listened to what they have told us, we set out these pledges that we have shared with the Mayor and Transport for London. Our pledges are non-negotiable in any future implementation of the scheme.

Cllr Nickie Aiken
Leader

Cllr Robert Davis MBE DL
Deputy Leader
OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

1 We will ensure pollution levels will reduce across the district

How we will deliver this for you:
As well as initiatives such as the Ultra-Low Emission Zone for central London, only two bus routes, using the greenest vehicles, will run through the district, a reduction of almost 100 buses an hour running at peak times. We are monitoring air quality at 100 sites across the West End.

2 We will ensure traffic won’t rat run down narrow residential roads

How we will deliver this for you:
We will carefully design the scheme to avoid creating congestion elsewhere. TfL is investing in advanced traffic signal technology to allow them to better manage traffic depending on differing conditions at any given time, and we are working to improve road user information so people can make informed journey choices before they travel.

3 We will ensure that pedestrianised areas and surrounding streets will be effectively managed at all times

How we will deliver this for you:
Uniformed officers will have the powers they need for effective enforcement to tackle unlicensed or anti-social activity, both day and night. Security, including anti-terrorism measures, will be well designed and proportionate and keep people safer.

4 We will make sure that Oxford Street must remain accessible to all

How we will deliver this for you:
The new Elizabeth Line will be step free and some new bus stops will be situated within one block of any traffic free section of Oxford Street and as close as possible to any pedestrianised area. We will also be looking at a new local mobility scheme along Oxford Street to further boost accessibility. Taxis will be able to drop off and collect passengers at the rear of some stores and on each of the side roads.

5 We will ensure deliveries will be properly controlled and not cause greater local inconvenience

How we will deliver this for you:
Recent surveys have shown that there are very few shops being serviced from the front via Oxford Street. Our plan is that the maximum distance to a loading bay would be no more than 50 metres. We will use all of our enforcement powers to make sure delivery rules will not be flouted.

6 We will make sure that night time traffic should not unduly increase disturbance

How we will deliver this for you:
Buses and taxis will be some of the quietest available so that noise levels throughout the area will largely stay unchanged or decrease for the most part with current plans. We will be monitoring noise across the district, making all data available, and develop mitigation measures, including changing the scheme, should that be required.

7 We will ensure there will be adequate, safe and quiet cycle routes through the area

How we will deliver this for you:
We are developing proposals for a high quality east-west cycle route to the north of Oxford Street. This network would complement new facilities coming to the area.

8 We will ensure resident parking bays will be protected

How we will deliver this for you:
Our plan is that there will be no impact on the amount of resident, disabled and motorcycle parking currently available.

For further information, visit westminster.gov.uk