



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

**Fore Street Hexham Proposed 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' and
'Loading Only' Restrictions Experimental Order 2020.**

7 July 2020

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the requirement to implement parking restrictions in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham on an Experimental Basis for a maximum of 18 Months.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposals introduce a 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' scheme operating at all times (everyday) and 'Loading Only' between 4pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham on an experimental basis.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Learning - "We want you to achieve and realise your potential"

Key Issues

1. Concerns have been raised that the existing restrictions are not being enforced causing road safety concerns.
2. This scheme has the support of County Councillor Trevor Cessford and Hexham Town Council.

Background

There have been a number of concerns raised by local residents via their County Councillor and the Town Council, regarding vehicles driving through and parking on the busy shopping area of Fore Street and St Mary's Chare Hexham, which is currently a 'Pedestrian Zone'. The existing traffic restrictions are inadequate and unenforceable, thereby causing road safety issues.



Entrance to Fore Street Hexham from the junction with B6305 Cattle Market Hexham

The existing restrictions shown above are predominantly for a "moving traffic offence" only enforceable by the Police, which is particularly frustrating to NCC Parking Services.

It is evident that the Police do not have sufficient resources to enforce on a regular basis. However, the Police have actively tried to explain the dangers of indiscriminate parking in the area to offenders, but with minimal results.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of parked vehicles are those of business owners from the area.



Fore Street Hexham - Congestion example showing a mid morning Saturday in March 2020

It is proposed to remove the existing restrictions and replace them with:

1. A 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone' operating at all times (everyday), thereby allowing pedestrians to shop safely during the busiest part of the day.
2. Allow Loading (unloading) between 4 pm and 10 am (everyday) outside of the busy shopping period. Thereby allowing shops and business to re-stock during the quieter trading periods and providing a safer environment for all road users.
3. 'No Waiting at Any Time' would be imposed within the restricted area.
4. No through traffic would be allowed i.e. vehicles would only be allowed between 4 pm and 10 am (everyday) to stop load or unload.
5. The Traffic Orders made would be on an Experimental Basis for a maximum of 18 Months. This provides the flexibility to obtain feedback on the scheme throughout the period the restrictions are in place. It provides the opportunity to closely monitor the scheme and carry out minor modifications if required.

Delegated Decision

Please note: The proposed restrictions would:

- A. Enforce a 'Proposed Pedestrian and Cycle Zone' restriction which would operate at all times everyday. This would effectively restrict all vehicles parking/waiting between these times, with the exception of pedal cycles and mobility scooters.
- B. Enable deliveries to be carried out between 4 pm and 10 am daily.
- C. Permit exceptions i.e. essential repairs and maintenance via an exemption issued by Parking Services
- D. Enable enforcement to be carried out by Parking Services and Northumbria Police.

NCC Officers have worked closely with County Councillor Trevor Cessford and the Hexham Town Council on the scheme, both of whom fully support the proposed way forward.

Details of the proposals are shown on the plans at Appendix A.

Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Orders.

An information letter will be sent to all affected businesses prior to the order being implemented.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from the current LTP funding.
Legal	Traffic Regulation Orders (reference TRO_23 and TROM_187
Procurement	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	The proposals will improve road safety for pedestrians at peak times.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement by NCC Parking Services and Northumbria Police
Customer Consideration	It is anticipated the proposals will lead to a safer environment for all road users.
Carbon reduction	Restriction of vehicles in a built up area will assist with carbon reduction
Wards	Hexham

Delegated Decision

Background Papers:

File reference –

S:\Highways\PROJECT\20\HE Minor Improvements\HE203423D
TROs\HE203423D-03 Fore Street Hexham Pedestrian Zone\TRO and
Notices

Appendix A – Scheme Location Plan

Author and Contact Details

Report Author: **Terry Luck - Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed introduction of a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone At All Times (everyday) and Loading Only between 4pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham on an experimental basis

Consultation: Not required, the proposal is on an Experimental basis and feedback is encouraged throughout the duration of the Order. Local canvassing has taken place by the local Councillor and Town Council and the scheme has been notified to Northumbria Police and other Statutory Consultees.

Decision Taken: To introduce a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone At All Times (everyday) and Loading Only between 4pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham on an experimental basis

Signature of Director



Date

8th July 2020

Delegated Decision

Appendix A Scheme Location Plan

