



# Northumberland County Council

## **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES**

**Paul Jones**

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### **Introduction of Off-Street Car Parks, Ponteland Schools & Leisure Centre**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

**23 May 2022**

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### **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the background to the proposed introduction of two new off-street car parks at the Ponteland Schools & Leisure Centre site.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed off-street car parks situated off Callerton Lane in Ponteland are approved to be added into the County Council's Off-Street Composite Order to allow for enforcement to be carried out at both sites.

### **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. The County Council has received concerns regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking within two newly constructed off-street car parks at Ponteland Leisure Centre and both Ponteland High School and Ponteland Primary School.
2. Both car parks are not currently enforced and regular abuse of the disabled parking bays occurs along with vehicles parking outside of the bay markings provided.

## **Delegated Decision**

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3. The County Council's Parking Services team has been requested to carry out enforcement at both car parks in order to alleviate the situation.
4. The introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order and amendments to the existing layout is required in order to allow for these areas to become legally enforceable.
5. The scheme is to be funded from the County Council's Property Services budget.

## **Delegated Decision**

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### **Background**

In 2020 a new development for a 'community campus' comprising of new, modern facilities for Ponteland's primary and secondary schools, along with new indoor and outdoor leisure facilities, was opened and included two separate car parks accessed off Callerton Lane:

- A northern car park serving the secondary school and leisure centre accessed via separate entry and exit junctions, of which the entrance access is a priority junction and the exit is signalised;
- A southern car park serving the primary school accessed via separate entry and exit junctions off Callerton Lane.

Both car parks are marked with one-way system arrows and give way stop lines, whilst several parking bays are denoted as 'accessible bays' i.e. allocated parking for Blue Badge holders only and 'drop off only' points intended for drivers to briefly set down passengers such as schoolchildren before leaving the car park. Such features are not currently prescribed as part of current off-street parking civil enforcement regulations.

Site visits to both car parks have observed obstructive and indiscriminate parking taking place largely during school start and end times where vehicles are stopping outside of the bay markings including at the entrance and exit roads, creating road safety issues that causes congestion, prevents vehicles from maneuvering around junctions and limits visibility for pedestrians. 'No Waiting' traffic cones have been strategically placed to discourage parking at the entrance and exit roads but often prove to be ineffective.

### **Proposals**

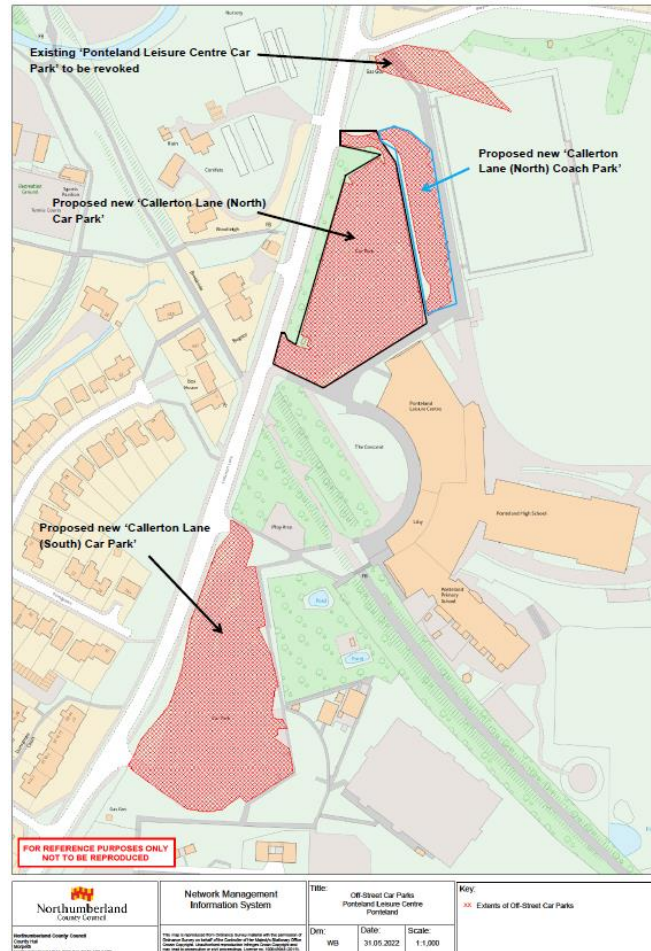
The County Council intends to include both the northern and the southern car parks within its existing off-street Order which will allow Civil Enforcement Officers to carry out enforcement and issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) to any vehicle observed to be contravening the identified restrictions. Vehicles parked outside of the allocated bay markings would be liable to receive a PCN, whereas the 'accessible bays' will be amended to a layout which complies with the Council's current off-street car parks for disabled parking bays.

At the northern car park, a dedicated area for buses and deliveries has been installed and it is proposed to separate this from the 'North' car park restrictions so that standard vehicles are no longer permitted to park in the allocated bays for buses and deliveries. This section will be indicated by signage at the entrance of the 'Callerton Lane (North) Coach Park' to denote the change in the type of restrictions at the northern car park.

All other areas of the car parks are to remain unchanged until Officers are able to review the effect that the new changes have had on the operation of both car parks. It is not proposed to introduce a maximum length of stay time period on either car park at this time.

## Delegated Decision

The location of the northern and southern car parks within the new development which are identified to be included for enforcement and are proposed to be named 'Callerton Lane (North)', Callerton Lane (North) Coach Park and 'Callerton Lane (South)', is illustrated by the proposed plan in Figure 1.



**Fig. 1: Areas of Callerton Lane (North), Callerton Lane (North) Coach Park & Callerton Lane (South) to be enforced by NCC**

It is expected that the new restrictions will improve road safety within both car parks, especially during school start and end times where the presence of pedestrians is more prominent, by discouraging obstructive and indiscriminate parking. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Order.

## Delegated Decision

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### Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme is to be financed by Property Services
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO_019_17)
<b>Procurement</b>	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Enforcement will improve road safety for road users using the car parks
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Ponteland East and Stannington

## **Delegated Decision**

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### **Background Papers:**

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\22\RT Rechargeable Schemes\RT220007 Ponteland Leisure Centre Car Parks

### **Author and Contact Details**

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Report Author      **William Binks, Programme Officer**

## Delegated Decision

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### DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer:** Service Director, Local Services

**Subject:** Proposed introduction of off-street car parks at Ponteland Schools & Leisure Centre.

**Consultation:** Statutory consultees will be notified of these new measures.

**Decision Taken:** To introduce new off-street parking restrictions at two new car parks off Callerton Lane, Ponteland.

Signature of Director



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**Date**  
09 September 2022

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