

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS, PRUDHOE INTERCHANGE

Purpose of report:

To consider the reduction of the existing taxi bay and additional all day parking at Prudhoe Interchange.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the existing taxi bay be reduced to accommodate one taxi only and the remaining space be unrestricted to accommodate all day parking at Interchange in Prudhoe.

Key issues

- 1) The scheme will improve parking facilities at the Interchange.
- 2) The scheme will introduce additional long stay parking.
- 3) The scheme will utilise redundant parking bays.
- 4) Scheme is supported by Cllr Burt

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Prudhoe Town Council regarding insufficient parking space around the Prudhoe Interchange, and the lack of use of the existing taxi rank. Currently the local bus experiences inconsiderate parking issues which are in turn affecting the bus service. Councillor Burt has also expressed concerns and requested officers consult local residents and businesses on the possible removal of taxi bay and the introduction of 4 hours maximum stay, no return within 5 hours limited waiting parking bays. No responses were received, therefore it was assumed that there were no objections and the scheme proceeded to the Intend Notice Stage. We then received one objection during the Intend Notice period which highlighted the need for more all day parking. It was also brought to our attention that there are taxis that still use the bays on occasion.

CONSULTATION

- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 16 residents/businesses and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
- 3) The consultation exercise ended on Tuesday 1st September 2015, and no responses were received.
- 4) The Intend Notice period ended on 20th February 2016 and one response was received from Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership which stated that the area would best be served as long stay parking. It was also highlighted that there are a small number of taxis that do use the designated bays.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5) Bearing in mind concerns raised by Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, it is recommended that the existing taxi bay be reduced to accommodate one taxi only. The remaining area would become unrestricted to allow all day parking. A plan of the revised scheme is attached as Appendix B
- 6) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix A – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B – Revised Plan

Appendix C - Email to Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed by the LTP
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	Bus and train passengers will benefit from the provision of additional parking places and the reduction in inconsiderate parking.
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Prudhoe Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents, businesses, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Prudhoe North

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Acting Director of Local Services and Housing

Executive Director:

Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

Subject:

Proposed Amendments to parking restrictions at Prudhoe Interchange

Consultation:

No responses received during the consultation, although The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership raised concerns during the Intend Notice period. These issues have now been addressed.

Decision Taken:

To approve the reduction of the taxi bay to accommodate one taxi only. The remaining area to be unrestricted to allow all day parking.

Signature of Director

Date



26/5/16

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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The Occupier

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Your Ref:

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Date: Tuesday 21st July 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Prudhoe Interchange

Concerns have been raised by Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Prudhoe Town Council about insufficient parking space around the Prudhoe Interchange. It has been reported that inconsiderate parking is obstructing the buses that use the bus stop within the Interchange, causes significant problems to the service. In order to alleviate these concerns, it is proposed that the existing taxi bays be removed and replaced with 4 hours maximum stay, no return within 5 hours limited waiting restriction. The existing taxi bays are no longer required as there are currently no licensed Hackney Carriages in the area and all the local taxis are Private Hire only, therefore can only be pre-booked.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed removal of the taxi bays and the introduction of 4 hours maximum stay, no return within 5 hours limited waiting restriction at the Prudhoe Interchange, as shown the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

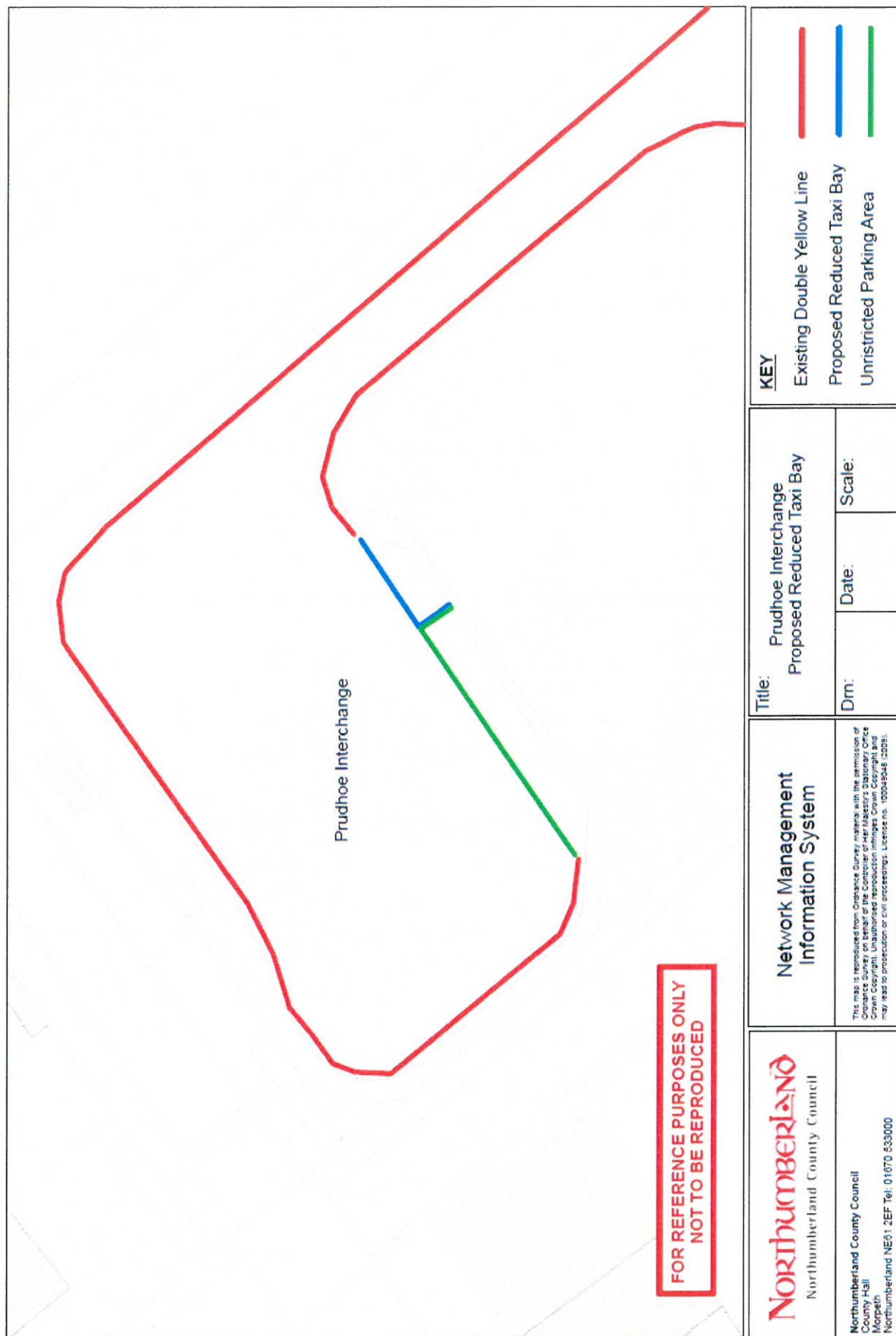
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Tuesday 1st September 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your comment on the proposed restriction at the Prudhoe Interchange. We have taken your comments into account and after further discussions with Parking Services it has been decided that the Taxi Bays should be reduced to one Taxi Bay and the rest of the parking bays will be converted into all day parking, as shown in the attached plan.

The decision was based on additional evidence that suggested that taxis do use the bay and would still need somewhere to park, along with your comments regarding long stay parking.

Thanks

Dan

Daniel Fraser

Programme Officer (Highway Safety)

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