



Northumberland County Council

**DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING DELIVERY IN
CONSULTATION WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING, NORTH SEATON ROAD, ASHINGTON

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the consultation exercise, regarding a proposal to provide a puffin crossing on North Seaton Road, Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Given the results of the consultation and the location on a route to school, it is recommended that the proposed puffin crossing be implemented as part of the 2018-19 LTP Programme.

Key Issues

1. The County Council has received concerns via the local ward Councillor about the safety of schoolchildren who cross the A196 North Seaton Road in Ashington.
2. Concerns about speeding traffic have already been raised with Northumbria Police who have carried out some monitoring.
3. Following feasibility work and a consultation it is proposed to install a new puffin crossing.

Background

4. The County Council has received concerns via the local ward Councillor about the safety of schoolchildren who cross the A196 North Seaton Road in Ashington.
5. Central Primary School is located to the east of North Seaton Road. Pupils who live to the west therefore must cross the road to get to school. The number of pupils crossing is likely to increase due to the recent housing developed on the site of the former Ashington Hospital.

6. North Seaton Road is an 'A' class road which carries a significant volume of traffic. A survey carried out in September 2017 recorded an annual average daily traffic figure of 9,108 vehicles.
7. Speed information from the survey showed that the 85th percentile speeds were 31mph southbound and 33.7mph northbound. This is below the level at which Northumbria Police would normally undertake enforcement, however, they have carried out some enforcement activity in response to local concerns and have contacted drivers who were travelling over the speed limit.
8. In response to the concerns raised an allocation was included in the 2017-18 LTP Programme to allow initial feasibility and design of a puffin crossing. The location of the proposed crossing, which has been agreed by the local ward Member, is shown in Appendix A.
9. A school crossing patrol site is in place close to the location of the proposed puffin crossing. It is not possible to locate the puffin crossing at the patrol site due to the proximity of road junctions, however, consideration will be given to combining the two with the possibility of freeing up the school crossing patrol officer to cover a vacant site.
10. There is a northbound bus stop located within the controlled area of the proposed crossing. Due to the road layout it is proposed to move this further south so that a vehicle overtaking a stationary bus has sufficient visibility to the signals ahead.

Consultation

11. Adjoining residents and statutory consultees were consulted on the proposed puffin crossing.
12. Only four responses were received. One was in favour, one against and two were neutral. A record of the responses is shown in Appendix B.
13. Three of the four responses were from residents, of which one was in favour, one against and one neutral.
14. The response against referred to the loss of parking as a result of the proposed crossing. Approximately 35m of parking space will be lost if the proposal goes ahead. Discussions with the local ward Member has confirmed that the loss of parking is considered acceptable in order to achieve the improved safety for pedestrians crossing the road.

Recommendation

15. Given the results of the consultation and the location on a route to school, it is recommended that the proposed puffin crossing be implemented as part of the 2018-19 LTP Programme.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	The proposal will be funded by the Local Transport Plan.
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees and adjoining residents have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Ashington Central

Background papers:

File ref: HE174309

Report sign off.

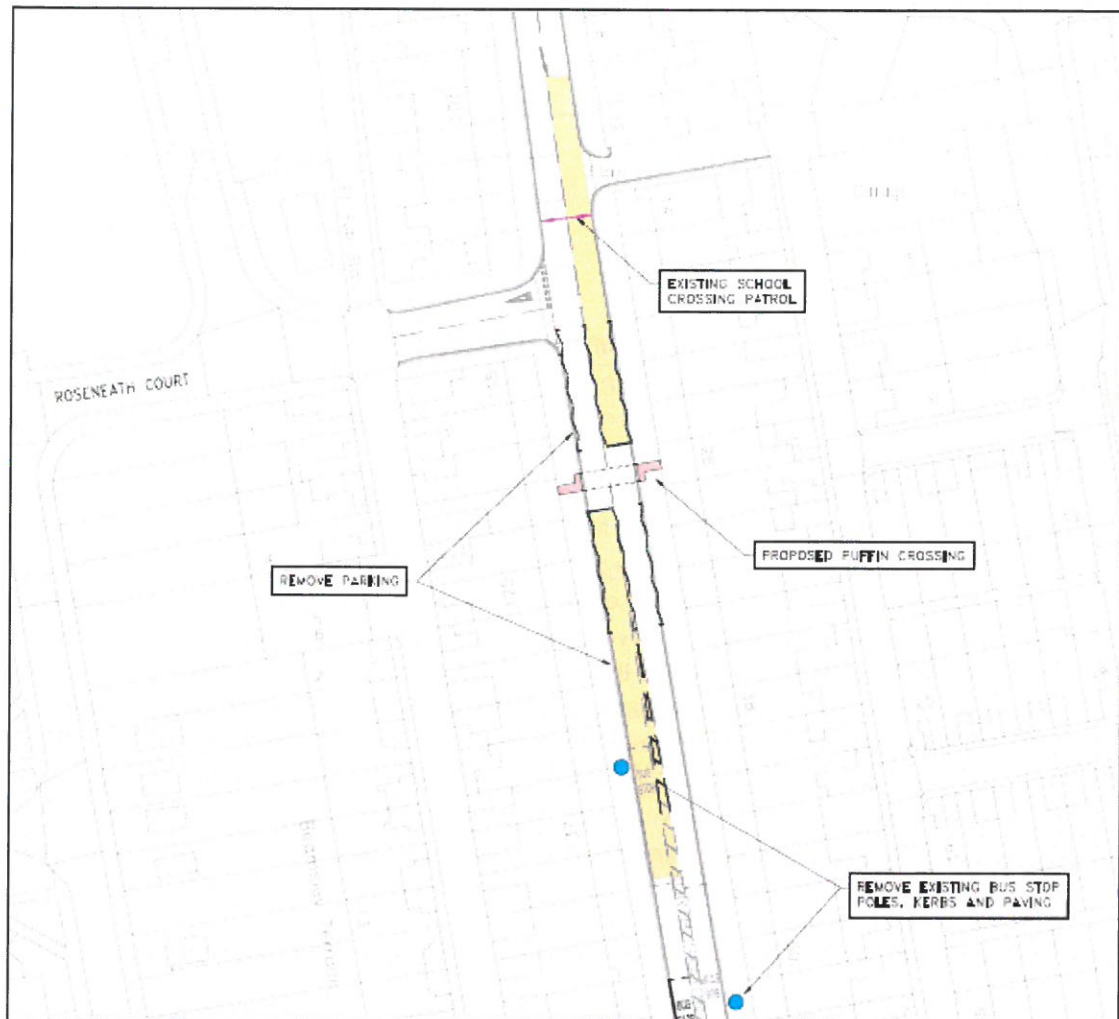
Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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Appendix A Proposed Puffin Crossing/Consultation Plan



Appendix B Consultation Responses

F O R	T	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
				Other Relevant Comments
1				The Proposed pedestrian crossing on North seaton road for the Children is a very good idear, the sooner the better, as i live at 32 seaton road and i see just how fast the cars go up and down. so well done sir.
	1			I'm against these proposals because of the parking problems we have in the street between Beamsley Terrace and North Seaton Road it's a nightmare problem parking and if you have a garage or can park in yard you can't get out because of other people parking. This is the age of the cars and before you take the step of removing the little, we have to use, then you need to address the parking situation for the residents living here. I believe this road is the only one that has yellow line on both sides of the road, I could understand the reason for this when the hospital was situated here but that is no longer the case.
	1			I have lived at this address for 37 years and have observed the present crossing point during that time. I have always believed that the safest crossing for children is a supervised school patrol personnel I am rather surprised that anyone could have any concern with this arrangement. However I can foresee a problem with the new proposal in that some children particularly the older ones not walking southwards to cross the road and then walking back northwards to continue their journey and then some younger children following their example thus creating a problem where no exist at the present time. I feel that the bus stops are ideally placed as they are. Traffic tends to speed up after the corner travelling southwards after passing the NEw Hirst club. It would also making any deliveries of large household furniture more difficult for residents of North Seaton Road. The loss of valuable parking spaces creating problems in the back North Seaton Road for residents. If it is to go ahead the pelican crossing could be sited at the present crossing point.
	1			Thank you for your letter dated 13th October 2017 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for outpatient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.
1	1	2		

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio Holder: Director of Local Services & Housing Delivery
Cabinet Member for Environment & Local Services

Subject: PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING, NORTH SEATON ROAD, ASHINGTON

Consultation

For: 1
Against: 1
Neutral: 2

Decision Taken: Given the results of the consultation and the location on a route to school, it is recommended that the proposed puffin crossing be implemented as part of the 2018-19 LTP Programme.

Signature of Director/
officer/Portfolio Holder

Date

 16/1/18
 16/1/18

