



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Morpeth First School Road Safety Improvements

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the requirement to amend the current parking and speed limit restrictions to accommodate the newly relocated Morpeth First School which will be accessed via the U6107 County Hall Access Road.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposals for a 20 MPH Zone with associated physical traffic calming measures and the amendments to the existing parking restrictions outside the new Morpeth First School are introduced in advance of the school being opened in September 2019.

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 relocated Morpeth First School will increase traffic movements and traffic flows along the U6107 County Hall Access Road, therefore measures are required to alleviate the impact on users.
2. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are required to introduce a 20 MPH speed limit and amend the existing 'No Waiting' and parking restrictions.
3. Representatives from the County Council have been working closely with Councilor Wearmouth, the school and the developer to establish and process the proposals.

Delegated Decision

4. School representatives have been keeping affected parties including school parents up to date on the proposals.
5. The cost of the TRO will form part of the overall capital investment being used to construct the school and the surrounding infrastructure improvements.

Background

Morpeth First School is currently in the process of relocating from Goosehill on the outskirts of Morpeth town centre to a site opposite County Hall which is accessed via the U6107 County Hall Access Road. The school move forms part of the council's capital programme for school redevelopment.

The move will have an impact on traffic movements for commuters and parents, as well as school and county hall staff. Experience shows that school traffic accounts for a large proportion of traffic volumes on the roads outside school premises during pick up and drop off times which can coincide with those commuting to and from work. A scheme of this nature requires early engagement in the TRO process which has been key to ensuring the most appropriate traffic management measures are implemented in the immediate and surrounding area.

A review of the Framework Travel Plan for Morpeth First School has been undertaken as part of the TRO development process. A series of TRO options have also been presented to the developer, the school, the elected member and various departments within Northumberland County Council including the Parking Services team. The proposal has been subject to a Road Safety Audit and any suggested amendments have been incorporated into the design.

The following key challenges have been considered throughout the TRO process:

- Providing parking for County Hall staff and pick up or drop off opportunity, whilst also promoting more sustainable modes of travel;
- Providing parking for County Hall staff and pick up or drop off opportunity, whilst also ensuring visibility is maintained at crossing locations where Vulnerable Road Users are prominent;
- Maintaining the free flow of vehicular traffic, whilst also ensuring that traffic speeds operate at a suitable level considering the volume of cyclists, walkers and those who scoot;
- Ensuring pedestrian crossing opportunities take place where pedestrians are likely to want to cross;
- Predicting traffic movements using existing data available without the advantage of seeing it in action;
- Ensuring that any proposed TRO restrictions are robust in nature, i.e. fully enforceable to prevent indiscriminate parking.

The current restrictions consist of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions operating along the vast majority of the U6107 County Hall Access Road. Space for several vehicles is available on either side of the road over a short section.



Photograph 1: U6107 County Hall Access Road existing restrictions with some unrestricted parking

20 MPH Zone

Increased traffic volumes and pedestrian movements are expected along the U6107 County Hall Access Road. Junction turning manoeuvres are also likely to increase. Slowing traffic in the immediate vicinity by using a 20 MPH Zone with associated traffic calming in the form of build outs and raised tables is deemed the most appropriate means of managing these movements. The raised table will be placed in the mouth of the junction which provides access to the new school entrance as well as access to Telford Court and associated businesses, this will enable a level of 'gap acceptance' by slowing traffic down to a suitable speed to allow junction turning manoeuvres to take place. A build out will be installed to facilitate pedestrian crossing opportunities between the new footpath on the south side of the access road and the footway to the north.

20 MPH zone signs will also be introduced at each entry point of the zone. Children from the school have been involved in the design process of the signs to increase awareness for the children and increase the prominence and intended message of the signing to motorists.

Parking Restrictions - School Car Park and Overflow Car Park

Drop off, pick up and parking will be available off street in the new car park for the school. This process will be managed by the school. Access to the existing overflow parking to the rear of the school site, currently used by County Hall staff, will also be provided by creating a footpath directly linking the car park to the school site.

Parking Restrictions – 'School Keep Clear' (No Stopping Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm)

Delegated Decision

A balance between providing parking, whilst also promoting more sustainable forms of transport has been sought when developing the necessary restrictions outside of the school. 'School Keep Clear' markings which prevent stopping Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm and therefore prevent drop off or pick up taking place, are being installed as they are considered an effective tool outside the school premises.

Parking Restrictions – 'No Waiting at Any Time' and unrestricted parking

'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are also proposed. A limited amount of unrestricted parking is due to be retained in an existing parking bay area on the south side of the access road. This area is expected to be utilised largely by council staff as is current practice, on the basis that the area is normally fully occupied prior to the school opening time and stays that way for much of the day.

Parking Restrictions – 'Loading Only'

A section of the north side of the access road immediately opposite the existing unrestricted parking bays to the south side is proposed. This is to enable refuse collection to take place whenever necessary throughout the day, without the need to enter the school grounds.

Details of the proposals are shown on the plan at Appendix A. The proposals are intended to maintain the free flow of traffic where possible, whilst also managing and maintaining a suitable traffic speed. Pedestrians will also benefit from having build-outs and raised tables to enable safe crossing opportunities.

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.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy | Consistent with existing policies |
| Finance and value for money | Scheme will be financed from the overall capital investment being used to fund the construction of the school and the surrounding infrastructure. |
| Legal | Traffic Regulation Orders (reference TROM_158) and (reference TRO_010_015). Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders. |
| Procurement | N/A |
| 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 proposal has been designed to minimise the risk to vulnerable road users needing to access the new school premises. Road Safety Audits are being undertaken throughout the design and construction process for the overall scheme which is inclusive of the proposed TRO's. |
| Crime & Disorder | Regulations in place to carry out enforcement. |
| Customer Consideration | A reduction in speed will lead to a safer environment for all road users. Users will benefit from improved road safety measures. |
| Carbon reduction | Speed reduction assists with carbon reduction. The measures actively promote alternative and more sustainable means of transport. |
| Wards | Morpeth, Kirkhill Ward |

Delegated Decision

Background papers:

File reference - S:\Highways\PROJECT\16\TDI Internal Design\TDI180016 - Morpeth First School

Appendix A – Scheme Plan - S:\Highways\PROJECT\18\TDI Internal Design\TDI180018 Morpeth First School s278

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Paul McKenna, Programme Engineer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer:

Service Director, Local Services

Subject:

Proposed parking and speed limit restriction amendments to accommodate the newly relocated Morpeth First School which will be accessed via the U6107 County Hall Access Road.

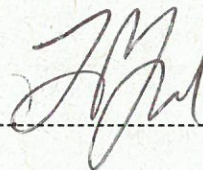
Consultation:

Not required as part of new development. However, representatives from the school and the local councilor have been involved in the design process throughout. Information letters will also be sent to affected properties within the 20 MPH Zone (All residents in Merley Gate).

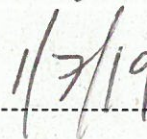
Decision Taken:

To introduce parking and speed limit restriction amendments to accommodate the newly relocated Morpeth First School which will be accessed via the U6107 County Hall Access Road.

Signature of Director



Date



Delegated Decision

Appendix A



Northumberland County Council

A N Other
Company Name
Street name
Town or city
County
POSTCODE

Your ref: *
Our ref: AA/123
Enquiries to: contact name here
Email: name@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel direct: (00000) 000000
Date: 00 Month 2018

Dear Resident

Amendments to existing restrictions outside Morpeth First School

As you will be aware, Morpeth First School is due to open in September this year. To facilitate traffic movements along the U6107 County Hall Access Road, changes to the existing road markings and signing arrangements along the route are required. The works are being introduced for road safety purposes.

A series of 'School Keep Clear' road markings are being introduced in the immediate vicinity of the school, as is common practice outside almost every school in the County. This is to prevent parking where it is considered unsafe to do so. 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions in the form of double yellow lines will also be implemented, largely in locations where they are currently already in place. A 'Loading Bay' within a layby immediately adjacent to the school is being constructed to allow refuse vehicle access throughout the school day.

A 20 MPH zone is being introduced, again on road safety grounds, which will cover the length of the U6107 County Hall Access Road, Merley Gate and The Steads. Any new signing and road markings will be restricted to the access road only. **No** signing or road markings will be changed on Merley Gate or The Steads, so the existing situation within Merley Gate and The Steads will stay the same as it is currently. Traffic calming features to physically slow traffic down will be introduced as part of the 20 MPH zone. Again, the traffic calming in the form of a raised table and a road narrowing feature will only take place on the access road. There are **no** traffic calming features proposed for Merley Gate or The Steads. It will simply form part of a 20 MPH zone and is expected to be self-enforcing.

To reiterate, any changes to the signing, road marking and road layout are largely restricted to the U6107 County Hall Access Road. The detail provided above is for information purposes only. Further information will be sent in due course to advise of any traffic management arrangements during the construction phase of the works, (due to take place during the summer term period prior to the school opening). If you have any specific queries in relation to the signing and road marking amendments then please contact highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk.

Name, Position, Department

Address Line 1, Address Line 2, Northumberland, Postcode

T: 01670 62**** E: name@northumberland.gov.uk

www.northumberland.gov.uk





Northumberland County Council

Yours sincerely

Highways Programme Team



Name, Position, Department
Address Line 1, Address Line 2, Northumberland, Postcode
T: 01670 62**** E: name@northumberland.gov.uk
www.northumberland.gov.uk



