



# Northumberland

## County Council

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

Paul Jones

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#### ADDENDUM

#### Introduction of Experimental Restricted Parking Zone and No Waiting at any Time Parking Restrictions, Blyth Market Place

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

05 July 2023

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#### Purpose and Recommendations of Original Report

##### Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to proposed alterations to the barrier system and parking restrictions on Blyth Market Place. This follows concerns that have been raised regarding inappropriate use of the area by vehicles. The proposed alterations are needed to ensure this area is a safe public space for use by all.

##### Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed alterations to the barrier system and parking restrictions on Blyth Market Place are introduced 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. Blyth Market Place is intended predominantly for use by pedestrians, with some limited permitted vehicular usage for traders to gain access and trade on market days and for events.

## **Delegated Decision**

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2. The existing 'No Entry' restrictions are largely ignored and the barrier systems intended to prevent intrusion are often left open.
3. As a result, there is an increase in motorists using the Market Place for public parking and therefore an increase in conflict with pedestrians.
4. Several near miss incidents have now been observed that raise road safety concerns which need to be addressed.
5. The elected member for the area, Councillor Nisbett is aware of the problems and supports any measures that improve safety for all users.
6. The scheme will be funded through the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

### **Purpose and Recommendations of Addendum**

#### **Purpose of Report**

An addendum to the original Delegated Decision Report is required to approve revised proposals for parking restrictions at Blyth Market Place and its adjoining areas. These include a Restricted Parking Zone on the Market Place and 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at the U9503 Waterloo Road Back Lane.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed Restricted Parking Zone and 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are introduced on an experimental basis for up to 18 months.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

'Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained'

#### **Key Issues:**

1. The Market Place continues to operate with the same layout and Northumberland County Council receives regular concerns regarding obstructive parking and dangerous driving throughout the vicinity.
2. The approved Pedestrian Zone to be implemented on an experimental basis was considered impractical for the Market Place moving forward.
3. A Restricted Parking Zone was recently introduced in the vicinity of Bowes Street and an extension of this is considered to be a more effective and consistent measure.
4. The Restricted Parking Zone, along with 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on the U9503 Waterloo Road Back Lane, are proposed to be introduced on an experimental basis for a period of up to 18 months.
5. The scheme will be funded through the 2023-24 Local Transport Plan (LTP).

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### **Background**

Blyth Market Place is a public space situated within Blyth Town centre intended predominantly for use by pedestrians, with some limited permitted vehicular usage for traders to gain access and trade on market days and for events.

Concerns have been raised by local partners about the current inappropriate use of the Market Place by vehicles. Northumberland County Council is aware that the existing restrictions prohibiting entry and loading operating at Blyth Market Place are largely ignored by patrons and that the barrier systems in place around the Market Place intended to prevent intrusion are often left open. This results in regular interactions and conflict between passing motorists using the Market Place for parking and pedestrians wanting to access the nearby businesses.

Following the concerns raised, several near miss incidents between pedestrians and motorists have been observed during recent site visits reported by users of the Market Place. This raises road safety concerns which need to be addressed.

### **Proposals**

In April 2022, restrictions to introduce a Pedestrian Zone on the Market Place were approved, with vehicles only permitted to enter the area between 7-10am to load or unload and parking prohibited at all times. These were to be introduced on an experimental basis for 18 months, however with new planning developments due to be considered for the Market Place within that time and other new restricted zones due to be introduced on adjoining areas, the Pedestrian Zone was deemed to be inappropriate for this location.

In early 2023, a new Restricted Parking Zone was introduced on Bowes Street and its adjoining junctions directly adjacent to the Market Place. In an effort to remain consistent with restrictions in the surrounding area, along with the introduction of a new Culture Centre on the Market Place, Officers have reviewed current restrictions in the area along with the proposed new layout and recommend that the Restricted Parking Zone is extended on an initial experimental basis for 18 months.

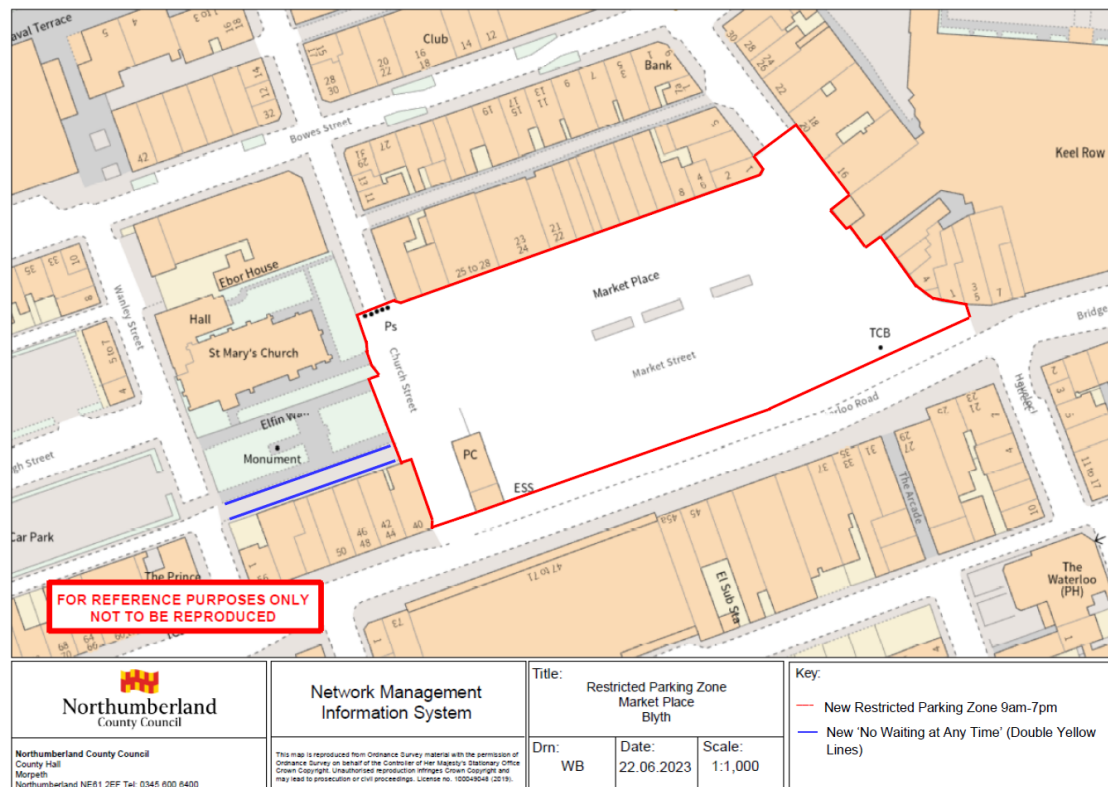
The zone is to be operational every day between the hours of 9am-7pm, meaning vehicles are not permitted to wait or load on the Market Place during these hours when pedestrians are most prominent in the vicinity. Existing 'No Entry' points from Regent Street and 'Prohibition of Vehicles Except for Loading' restrictions are to be removed as these will no longer be required, however the parking ban on the footways along Waterloo Road will remain.

'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions in the form of double yellow lines will be introduced on the U9503 Waterloo Road Back Lane where vehicles are regularly parked throughout the day and obstructing pedestrians along with the free flow of traffic, such as refuse collections, along this route. Vehicles are still able to load or unload on these restrictions to assist with deliveries.

The reasons for introducing these measures on an experimental basis is to monitor their effectiveness and consider further amendments to the restrictions

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prior to the implementation of the new Culture Centre, where the layout is expected to significantly change. The extents of the restrictions can be observed in Figure 1 below.



**Fig. 1: New Restricted Parking Zone and 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Blyth Market Place**

### Consultation

Statutory consultees and local businesses have been informed and letters sent which include an overview of what the Restricted Parking Zone entails and when loading/unloading is prohibited. Traders with market stalls are to be exempt from loading restrictions during the prescribed hours so they can continue to operate, as well as emergency services and statutory undertakers should it be required. The Energising Blyth project team continue to engage with all stakeholders and will be holding drop-in sessions within the town centre welcoming those who have any queries.

The effectiveness of the restrictions will be monitored by Civil Enforcement Officers and the Highways Improvements Team, during which any comments are also welcomed and would be used to inform any future decisions.

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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 will be financed through the 2023-24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders
<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>	Statutory consultees and affected properties have been informed
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Croft

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### **Background Papers:**

File reference – HE233728D

### **Author**

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Report Author     **William Binks, Programme Officer**

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### DECISION TAKEN

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

**Subject:** Proposed Restricted Parking Zone and 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Blyth Market Place

**Consultation:** Engagement with statutory consultees and local businesses is ongoing

**Decision Taken:** To approve the proposed Restricted Parking Zone on the Blyth Market Place and 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at the U9503 Waterloo Road Back Lane on an experimental basis for up to 18 months

Signature of Director



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**Date**  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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