



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PROPOSED RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE & ONE-WAY SYSTEM, BLYTH MARKET PLACE

Cabinet Member: Councillor Mark Mather

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to implement a restricted parking zone and one-way system in Blyth Market Place to support the current regeneration investment in the area and improve pedestrian safety.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed restricted parking zone and one-way system are implemented.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key objectives in the Corporate Plan for 2023-2026:

- 'Tackling Inequalities' - Creating places where there is equity in access to an environment that encourages physical activity and active travel.
- 'Driving Economic Growth' - Introduce measures which make sustainable travel a more attractive, greener, and easy alternative to getting around including cycling and walking.
- 'Thriving Places and Culture' - Deliver an ambitious regeneration programme across the county. This will include transformative investments in Blyth.

Key Issues

- Blyth Market Place is currently subject to significant regeneration activity, including the construction of a new culture hub building.

Delegated decisions

- Vehicular access around the new building needs to be restricted to allow efficient operation of the new culture hub, facilitate loading and unloading for adjacent premises and to improve road safety by prioritising the area for pedestrians.

Background

1. Significant regeneration activity is currently taking place in Blyth Market Place, including:
 - ∄ The 'Market Pavillion' - a new building housing a culture hub consisting of a three-screen cinema, a studio and multi-purpose space for events, an area for creative activities and a cafe and bar area.
 - ∄ New street lighting and furniture.
 - ∄ An outdoor performance and events space.
 - ∄ New green spaces.
 - ∄ Space for the weekly market.
2. These developments are funded by the UK Government's Future High Street Fund and the County Council as part of the £90m Energising Blyth regeneration programme that aims to revitalise the town. The investment will provide a significant boost to Blyth's culture and leisure offer, creating a new 'anchor' development which will attract more people into the town centre throughout the day and into the evening.
3. The development of the Culture Hub building includes the creation of a service road which runs along the west and northern boundaries of the Market Place. This route serves the new building and the existing retail premises to the north. Prior to the new development, access along this route was restricted to specific times of day, enforced by gates at each end, to prevent 'rat running' and to prioritise pedestrian movement.
4. Planning approval for the redevelopment, granted in July 2023, includes a refurbished access road with level access to prioritise pedestrians, a loading bay to serve adjacent premises and access restrictions to improve safety and prevent rat running at busy times.

Proposal

5. Traffic restrictions are required to close the area to vehicles during specified times so that priority is given to pedestrians, to prevent 'rat running', to facilitate loading and unloading for adjacent premises and to implement a one-way traffic system.
6. The proposed restriction is a **Restricted Parking Zone, 9am to 4pm, No Loading Except in Signed Bay**. The proposed restriction will be enforced by

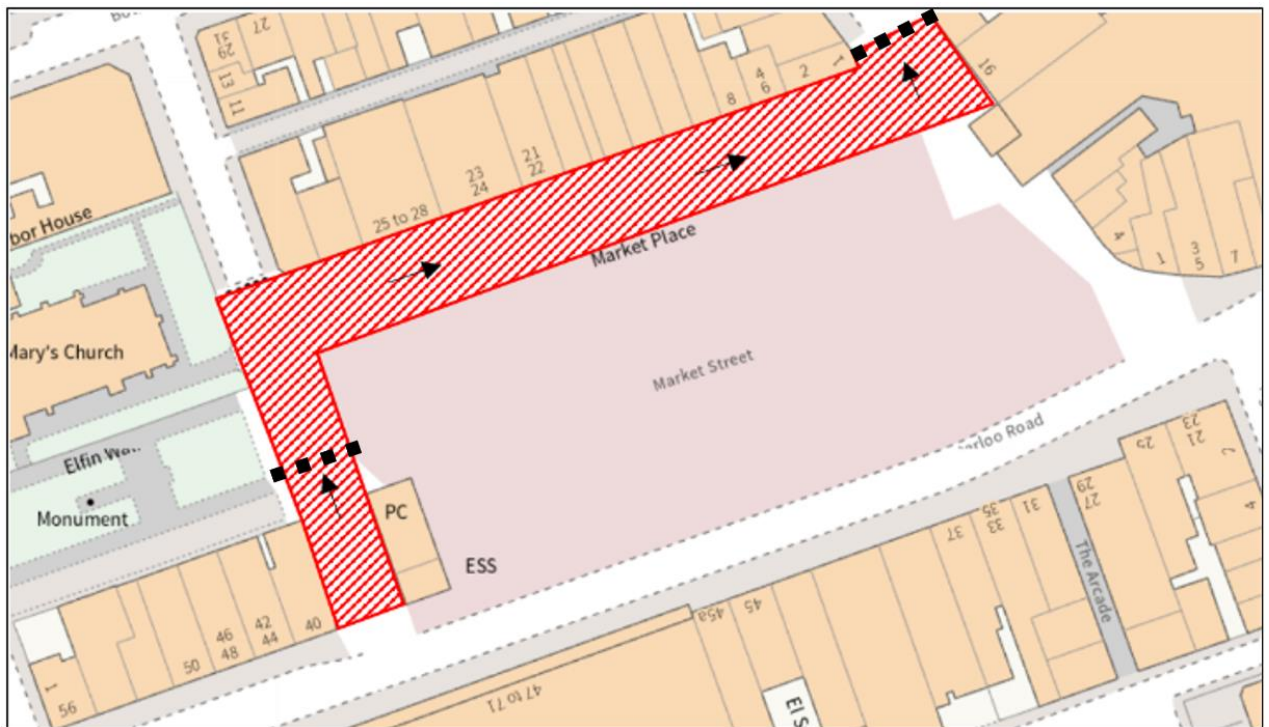
Delegated decisions

bollards to protect pedestrians. Access will not be restricted outside of these times when the bollards will be removed.

7. The times of operation are intended to remove vehicles during daytime hours when pedestrian activity is significant, but also to facilitate loading/unloading at the new culture hub which is expected to take place mainly after 4pm to allow for evening events and performances.
8. A One-Way system is also proposed due to the restricted space available. The road is too narrow to allow two-way traffic safely, especially for larger vehicles, and the impact on pedestrian safety would be significant. It is proposed that the system runs south to north, i.e. traffic will enter from Waterloo Road and exit via Regent Street.

Consultation

9. Statutory consultees and all affected premises were therefore consulted on these proposals, as shown on the plan below.



Proposed Restricted Parking Zone, 9am to 4pm, No Loading except in signed bay, One-Way System and removeable bollards (dashed lines).

10. Only one response was received. This response was in favour of the proposals. A summary of the response is shown in the Appendix.
11. Officers have also discussed the proposals directly with adjacent traders, and no concerns were raised.

Recommendation

Delegated decisions

12. It is considered that the proposed restrictions will make the area safer for pedestrians who will be present in large numbers throughout the day.
13. They will also allow for loading and unloading by adjacent retailers and the culture centre.
14. The one-way system is necessary due to the restricted road width available.
15. It is therefore recommended that the Restricted Parking Zone, 9am to 4pm, No Loading except in signed bay, One-Way System and removeable bollards should be implemented as proposed.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	The proposal is in accordance with relevant guidance.
Finance and value for money	The proposal will be funded via the development.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders.
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 have been consulted.

Delegated decisions

Carbon reduction	The traffic restrictions may result in a reduction in carbon emissions in the immediate area by removing vehicular traffic during the hours of operation.
Wards	Croft

Background papers:

File ref: HE253916

Planning application ref: 23/00618/CCD

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)	

Author and Contact Details

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Appendix

Consultation Response

Fo	Against	Neither	
1			We're happy with the proposed plans. We have access from our back exit for loading etc.. so can avoid using the new road. No further comments from us, but happy to agree to the proposal!

DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer(s) and
Portfolio Holder (where
appropriate):**

Paul Jones - Director of Environment & Transport

Subject:

**PROPOSED RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE & ONE-
WAY SYSTEM, BLYTH MARKET PLACE**

Consultation

1 response in favour.

Decision Taken:

The proposed **Restricted Parking Zone, 9am to 4pm, No Loading Except in Signed Bay**, and **One-Way system**, should be implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

05/06/2025
