



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed Prohibition of Left & Right Turn – Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Improving Our Roads & Highways

15 April 2025

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new turning ban movements outside Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed traffic restrictions are implemented in order to improve road safety in the area.

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. Northumberland County Council has received road safety concerns regarding the flow of traffic outside Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham during school start and end times.
2. To improve road safety and reduce congestion outside the access to the school car park, new prohibition of turning restrictions are proposed to apply at school start and end times.

Delegated Decision

3. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor and school representatives.
4. The scheme is to be funded through the 2025/26 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

Queen Elizabeth High School is a newly opened facility which is situated adjacent to Whetstone Bridge Road in Hexham. As part of the development, several accesses to the school were created via Whetstone Bridge Road and on-street parking restrictions implemented to maintain the free flow of traffic.



Fig.1: Existing access to QEHS car park via Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham (Source: Google Maps, 2025)

Concerns have been raised at the access shown in Figure 1 above relating to vehicular congestion at school start and end times, which obstructs forward visibility for both motorists and vulnerable pedestrians such as schoolchildren, thereby increasing the likelihood of a collision occurring.

Following a review of the area between NCC officers and school representatives to carry out highway improvement measures, it is proposed to introduce prohibitions of turning movements for vehicles at the following points:

- No right turn from Tynedale Terrace onto Whetstone Bridge Road from Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:20-8:45am & 3:15-3:30pm;
- No right turn from QEHS car park access onto Whetstone Bridge Road from Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:20-8:45am & 3:15-3:30pm;
- No left turn from Whetstone Bridge Road travelling northbound into QEHS car park access from Monday-Friday between the hours of 3:15-3:30pm;
- No right turn from Whetstone Bridge Road travelling southbound into QEHS car park access from Monday-Friday between the hours of 3:15-3:30pm.

The proposed restrictions are illustrated below in Figure 2.

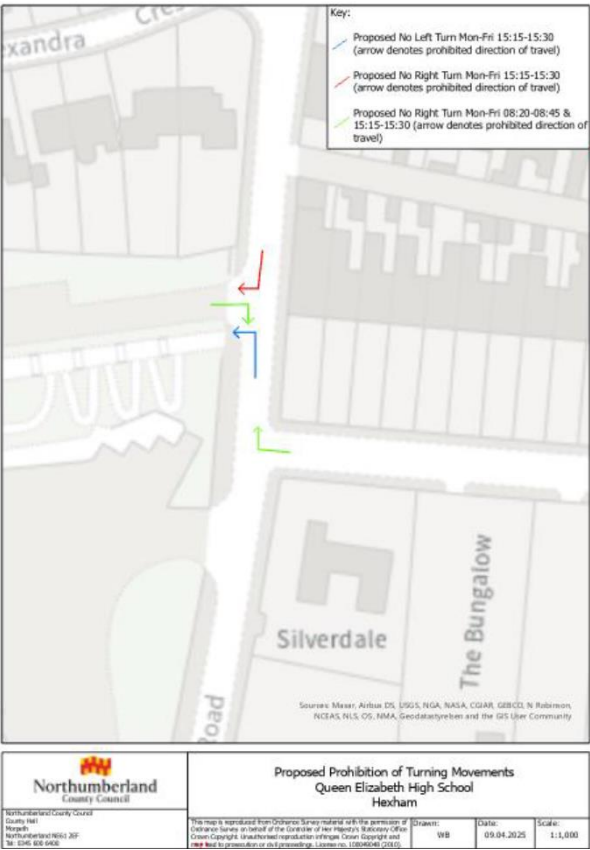


Fig.2: Proposed prohibition of turning restrictions at Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham

It is anticipated that the ban of turning movements at targeted junctions where issues have been observed will reduce the levels of traffic and congestion directly outside the school car park entrance and in turn improve the free flow of traffic at school start and end times.

Detailed designs of the proposal can be found in Appendix A. The proposal is intended to increase road safety for pedestrians, maintain the free flow of traffic where possible and to protect the amenity of the area overall. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Traffic Regulation Order.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy | Consistent with existing policies. |
| Finance and value for money | Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2025/26 programme. |
| Legal | Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order. |
| Procurement | None |
| Human Resources | None |
| Property | None |
| Equalities Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
| Risk Assessment | N/A |
| Crime & Disorder | Regulations in place to carry out enforcement. |
| Customer Consideration | Statutory consultees will be informed. |
| Carbon reduction | None |
| Wards | Hexham West |

Delegated Decision

Background Papers

File reference – HE243825D

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Author

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Title of Officer | Director of Environment & Transport |
| Subject | Proposed Prohibition of Left & Right Turn Restrictions at Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham |
| Consultation | Statutory consultees will be informed |
| Decision Taken | To introduce new Prohibition of Left Turn and Prohibition of Right Turn restrictions at Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham |

Signature of Director



Date

16/04/2025



