



# Northumberland

## County Council

### RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

**Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport**

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**Proposed Pedestrian & Cycle Zone – West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

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

**03 January 2024**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new traffic restrictions at West Street in Berwick-upon-Tweed in the form of a 'Pedestrian & Cycle Zone'.

#### **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 concerns regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking throughout the day at West Street in Berwick-upon-Tweed.
2. The area is predominantly pedestrian in nature due to the number of local businesses situated on West Street and cobbled surface of the road, with existing historic parking restrictions in the form of a Controlled

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Parking Zone already in place, however these are outdated in line with new regulations and are not currently enforced.

3. A new scheme with restrictions in the form of a Pedestrian & Cycle Zone with 'No Waiting at Any Time' and no loading permitted between the hours of 10am and 5pm is proposed to replace the Controlled Parking Zone currently in place.
4. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.
5. The scheme is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

### Background

West Street is situated directly within the town centre of Berwick-upon-Tweed and is popular with shoppers due to the large number of local businesses who operate here. It is pedestrian in nature, as the road surface is cobbled with a very narrow carriageway and as such, shoppers tend to utilise the full length of the road for walking rather than just on the footways.



**Fig. 1: Existing road layout at West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Source: Google Maps, 2024)**

Due to this narrow route, a prohibition of entry point to vehicles is in place at the southern end of West Street at its junction with Bridge Street and Love Lane, whilst a one-way only system beginning at the entrance of West Street and its junction with Marygate to ensure vehicles are travelling in one direction on this route. A Controlled Parking Zone restriction is also in place covering the full extents of West Street which prohibits use of the road for parking at any time, however this is not currently enforced as new regulations set out in section 14 of the Traffic Signs Manual (Chapter 3 – Regulatory Signs) 2019 advise that such a restriction is no longer practical in this type of area.



**Photograph 1: Existing signs for one-way system and Controlled Parking Zone at entrance to West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

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In recent months, officers have observed a high number of vehicles parked along the carriageway and footway throughout the day on West Street. Such levels of parking observed obstructs access and visibility for pedestrians, increases the likelihood of a collision occurring and deters shoppers from using the area due to the dangers it presents.



**Photographs 2, 3 & 4: Examples of vehicles parked on West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

In order to alleviate these issues, a Pedestrian & Cycle Zone, which is more suitable for this type of road layout as also prescribed in section 6 of the same Traffic Signs Manual, is proposed to replace the Controlled Parking Zone. The restrictions involved would prohibit parking at all times and loading/unloading between the hours of 10am and 5pm every day, so as to ensure road safety for pedestrians during the peak hours of the day when shoppers are present. Proceeding through the zone would be permitted only for those motorists who need access to their residential properties beyond West Street and to access Eastern Lane Car Park.

The local Town Council and Chamber of Trade & Commerce have raised concerns to the proposal regarding a loading ban during the day, however the intention of this road since the original Controlled Parking Zone was implemented many years ago has never been to allow vehicles to use this shopping area for deliveries and it has not been deemed safe to encourage this practice following site observations during the day. Adjoining streets such as Easter Wynd and Eastern Lane have 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines in operation, but these can be utilized for the purpose of loading/unloading where necessary during the day.

Restrictions which mirror this proposal were implemented on a trial basis at Fore Street in Hexham successfully and following a review of the scheme,

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positive feedback from stakeholders led to its permanent implementation. The proposed loading ban times of 10am-5pm are therefore taken and used as a foundation for these types of measures when they are required, but they will be monitored and amended if deemed appropriate or feasible by the Council.

Details 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.

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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 LTP 2024/25 programme.
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The proposal is designed to reduce the risks associated with obstructive and indiscriminate parking.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Statutory consultees, directly affected residents and local businesses have been informed.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Berwick North

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### **Background Papers**

File reference – HE243818D-02

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

### **Author**

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**Report Author**    **William Binks, Programme Officer**

**DECISION TAKEN**

<b>Title of Officer</b>	Director of Environment & Transport
<b>Subject</b>	Proposed Pedestrian & Cycle Zone at West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed
<b>Consultation</b>	Statutory consultees, residents and local businesses have been informed
<b>Decision Taken</b>	To introduce a new Pedestrian & Cycle Zone and remove existing Controlled Zone at West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed

**Signature of Director**



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**Date**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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Appendix A – Scheme Layout

