



Northumberland County Council

**DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING IN CONSULTATION
WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**B6350 NEWCASTLE ROAD CORBRIDGE, ADVISORY CYCLE LANE AND
PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider amendments to road markings on Newcastle Road, Corbridge, specifically the advisory cycle lane, road centreline and parking restrictions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) The existing advisory cycle lane is removed.
- 2) The road centreline is reinstated.
- 3) The current experimental 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction (double yellow lines) is made permanent.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the *Places and Environment Aim* in the Corporate Plan:

"Our aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of our towns, villages and countryside and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport. To achieve this, we will keep Northumberland clean, green and safe from detrimental impacts of climate change, build more houses to benefit those most in need and provide a convenient, integrated public transport network."

Key Issues

1. An experimental road marking scheme was installed on the B6530 Newcastle Road in Corbridge in November 2015. The scheme

consisted of advisory cycle lanes in both directions and the removal of the centreline.

2. Concerns have been raised throughout the process about the cycle lanes by County and Parish Councillors, as well as members of the public.
3. Positive feedback has also been received from the public, including cyclists who consider that the lanes make cycling safer.
4. Complaints have been received regarding parked cars on Newcastle Road in the vicinity of the health centre. In response, experimental double yellow lines were introduced. These have been received positively by the local community.

Background

1. Following a resurfacing scheme in November 2015, the opportunity was taken to introduce an experimental road marking scheme on the B6530 Newcastle Road, Corbridge.
2. Speed survey results showed that traffic speeds on Newcastle Road were often over 30mph, so the road centre line was removed in an attempt to encourage lower speeds.
3. Newcastle Road also forms part of National Cycle Network Route 72 (Hadrian's Cycleway), so 1.5m wide advisory cycle lanes were installed in both directions in November 2015 (see Figure 1).



Fig 1. Newcastle Road with advisory cycle lanes, looking west

4. Advisory cycle lanes are intended to warn motorists of the presence of cyclists and to indicate the space required to pass cyclists safely. They

are marked with a broken white line which means motorists can enter the lanes when cyclists aren't present. Consequently, there is no actual reduction in road space. The introduction of the cycle lanes is intended to protect cyclists and although there is no reduction in road space, driver perception can be that the space available to them is reduced. The intention was that this should slow drivers down making the whole environment safer.

5. During the trial speed surveys were undertaken at two points and video footage was also taken to record driver behaviour.
6. On 3rd October 2016 a meeting took place in Corbridge with County and Parish Councillors and representatives of the Health Centre to discuss the findings from the trial.
7. Although no incidents were recorded or reported during the trial, local concern continued to be expressed over the potential for head-on collisions and near-misses, particularly at bends in the road where forward visibility is restricted.
8. Additionally, on-street car parking in the vicinity of the Health Centre was highlighted as a problem. Parked cars caused traffic to build up in both directions and obstructed visibility for vehicles leaving the Health Centre car park, with some visitors avoiding the car park even if spaces are available. See Figure 2.



Fig 2. Parked cars affecting traffic flow (Jan 2016).

9. Following the meeting an independent Road Safety Audit was commissioned to address the concerns raised. The safety audit was carried out on 10th November 2016.

10. The Road Safety Audit recommended that the westbound cycleway (downhill) should be removed, and that parking restrictions should be provided near the Health Centre to remove the problems caused by parked cars.
11. As per these recommendations, in March 2017 the westbound cycle lane was removed and an experimental 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction was introduced. The restriction is experimental so that its impact can be assessed, given the limited parking available elsewhere in Corbridge.
12. Observations from the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers and local feedback suggests that the parking restriction is working well.
13. County and Parish Councillors continue to express concerns over the remaining cycle lane and wish to see the road centreline reinstated.
14. It is therefore recommended that:
 - The cycle lane is removed.
 - The road centreline is reinstated.
 - The current experimental 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction is made permanent.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	The proposal will be funded through the Local Transport Plan
Legal	A Traffic Regulation Order will be required.
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	A Road Safety Audit has been completed.

Crime Disorder &	None
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees will be consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Corbridge

Background papers:

Corbridge Road Marking Trial Decision Report Nov 2016
Road Safety Audit Nov 2016
Briefing Paper Oct 2016

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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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio Holder:

Director of Local Services & Housing
Portfolio Holder for Local Services

Subject:

**B6350 NEWCASTLE ROAD CORBRIDGE,
ADVISORY CYCLE LANE AND PARKING
RESTRICTIONS**

Consultation

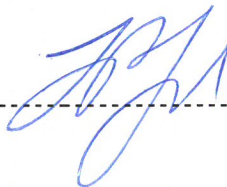
Consultation carried out with County & Parish
Councillors Oct 2016.

Decision Taken:

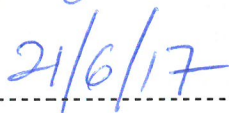
It is recommended that:

- The cycle lane is removed.
- The road centreline is reinstated.
- The current experimental 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction is made permanent.

Signature of Director



Date



Signature of Portfolio Holder



Date

