

Blyth Relief Road

Background

Northumberland County Council has been aware of traffic problems entering and leaving Blyth for a number of years. The two main roads into Blyth, the A193 Cowpen Road to the North and A1061 Laverock Hall Road to the South are heavily trafficked with over 20,000 vehicles a day on each road and have both been identified as suffering from congestion during peak periods.

This congestion adversely affects the economic growth of the area, the movement of people and goods, particularly to and from the Port of Blyth, and also has a harmful effect upon the environment through exhaust emissions from vehicles.

The reliability of bus services is also being affected, particularly during peak hours, with the existing roads into Blyth highlighted by bus operators as causing delays to these services.

The Story So Far

A Blyth Transport Appraisal was completed in 2015 and recommended several short, medium and long term options to take forward to help relieve congestion.

One short term option included junction improvements on Cowpen Road and this scheme has now been completed.

However the report noted that these short term improvements would not cope with the predicted increase in traffic flows generated by future developments in Blyth and longer term highway enhancements would be required to add capacity to the network. One of these long term options was a new East to West relief road.

The Council is now looking to move forward with a preferred option for investment and develop an outline business case for the provision of a new strategic link road. In parallel with the early stages of this work a high level feasibility study on 5 route options has been undertaken and recommended 3 of these options to be taken forward for detailed appraisal.

A new internal North South route (largely following the route of the disused rail line) has also been put forward to be included in the study. This could potentially reduce congestion on the A193 Rotary Way.

In the outline business case study route 3 provided the most benefits.