Statement of Reasons

The Borough Council of Gateshead (Durham Road QTC Phase 4 Part 2) Traffic Regulation Order 2015

Gateshead Council, like all authorities, has produced a Local Transport Plan which is a statutory document submitted and approved by the Government’s Department for Transport.

In this document, Gateshead with the other Tyne & Wear partners, have set out a vision to continue and develop Tyne & Wear where all its residents have better access to a more prosperous, safer, healthier and more sustainable lifestyle in a more attractive environment. Our objectives are therefore to reduce congestion, improve road safety, improve air quality and improve the quality of life of our residents.

The demand for road space is significantly higher than the ability to supply sufficient road space at peak times. Therefore the policy aims to reduce congestion by providing realistic alternatives to the car, for example, by making public transport more accessible and efficient and by making cycling and walking easier and safer, thus encouraging the public to use these alternative modes of transport.

The Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 recognises that 43% of households in Gateshead have no access to private motor vehicles and that around 40% of trips to work are not made by private motor vehicles. Therefore the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan outlines a series of measures aimed at easing congestion problems, improving accessibility and supporting continued regeneration along this corridor.

In association with this plan, the Council has developed a Quality Transport Corridor Scheme on Durham Road (which is being implemented in stages) which is a major traffic route through Gateshead.

The Quality Transport Corridor Scheme seeks to modernise and upgrade the route with improvements for all users.

The key aims of the scheme are to:-

- to enhance local bus services
- to enhance cycling facilities
- to improve pedestrian facilities
- to improve road safety
- to provide environmental improvements to the residential and shopping areas
- to improve, where possible, the general flow of traffic
- to enhance junctions along the route to reduce congestion and benefit all users

While seeking to provide improved bus movements through this area the Council are endeavouring to balance the impact of any proposals against their potential impact, both positive and negative, on the nature and vitality of the local centre. The Scheme was considered in relation to following factors:

- Impact on user amenity - including consideration of the local environment as well as movements along and across Durham Road
- Impact on parking
- Impact on servicing
- Impact on traffic speeds
The main aims of the current proposal are to improve bus and cycle movement in this area as well as improving pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities and traffic signals. This is proposed to be achieved by providing more bus lanes to provide efficient and accessible alternative to the car, signalise the Enfield Road junction and provide additional parking bays on Durham Road.