Statement of Reasons

Gateshead Town Centre
Experimental Traffic Regulation Order 2020

The Borough Council of Gateshead ('Council') proposes to introduce an experimental traffic regulation order to create a safe area for pedestrians and cyclists.

As the country deals with and recovers from Covid-19, new challenges have arisen in providing essential works in keeping the public safe.

Highway space will be used differently as we recover, with more emphasis on walking and cycling, and the reallocating of road space to support the need for social distancing. The following experimental TRO meets the requirements to accommodate the minimum social distancing requirements. The experimental TRO is in line with the new guidance from the DfT on maintaining social distancing due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council as highway authority propose to make the above order in discharge of its duty under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, 'to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians)' in accordance with the provisions of Section 1(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 namely:

(a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising;

(c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians),

(d) for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property;

(f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.