

**Statement of Reasons  
The Borough Council of Gateshead  
Coatsworth Road (Covid-19 Response)  
Experimental Traffic Regulation Order 2020**

The Borough Council of Gateshead ('Council') proposes to introduce an experimental traffic regulation order to introduce a prohibition of motorised vehicles in a southbound direction to Coatsworth Road from the junction with Claremont South Avenue to the junction with Grasmere Street; only buses, emergency vehicles, vehicles undertaking statutory duties and cyclists will be permitted to travel in a southbound direction, no private motorised vehicles will be permitted. Private motorised vehicles will, however, be permitted to travel in a northbound direction on Coatsworth Road, vehicles exiting from the side roads between Grasmere Street and Claremont South Avenue will only be allowed to travel in a northbound direction only. In addition, the Council will also be introducing a prohibition of motorised vehicles to Alexandra Road with only cyclists being permitted to travel through the closed section of highway.

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 traffic regulation order meets the requirements to accommodate the minimum social distancing requirements. The experimental traffic regulation order 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; or
- (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; or
- (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.