

Statement of Reasons

The Borough Council of Gateshead (Hills Street) (Cycle Improvements) Traffic Regulation Order 2017

The Council is proposing to improve cycle and pedestrian facilities in accordance with its Policy to encourage sustainable modes of transport. They will minimise conflict points between pedestrians, cycles and vehicles, and improve links from Gateshead Town Centre to the Quays and Newcastle City Centre.

To facilitate these improvements it is proposed to narrow the carriageway and remove the westbound lane of Hills Street, restricting use of the eastbound lane to buses, cyclists, taxis and for loading. A loading bay will be created for local businesses.

The narrowing of Hills Street and signalisation of the pedestrian crossing will improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, who currently need to cross two lanes of vehicles coming in both directions at an uncontrolled crossing.

Bottle Bank will be restricted to one lane and new mandatory cycle lanes will be provided in the north and southbound carriageways. Protecting this section of Highway for use by cyclists will maintain a flow of cycle traffic and prevent overrun by motor vehicles.