

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Borough Council of Gateshead (Durham Road Low Fell Gateshead) (No Waiting At Any Time) Traffic Regulation Order 2015

Gateshead Council, like all local 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 and Wear partners, sets out a vision to continue and develop the Tyne and Wear area so that all its residents have better access to a more prosperous, safer, healthier and more sustainable lifestyle in a more attractive environment. Our objections 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 outweighs the ability to provide adequate road space at peak times and therefore the Council's policy is to reduce congestion by providing genuine alternatives to the car through other means of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking.

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 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:

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

The Council is implementing a shared use cycle path on a section of the western footway of Durham Road as part of its overall Quality Transport Corridor Scheme and the proposed no waiting at any time restrictions are required to prevent vehicles parking in such a way as to obstruct the shared use path.

As the shared use path provides cyclists, especially less experienced or confident cyclists, with an alternative to cycling on Durham Road carriageway which forms a busy transport route, the Council sees that it is therefore essential that it endeavours to keep these routes free from obstruction.

Surveys of the area have highlighted an issue with vehicles parking on the footway which, if allowed to continue, would potentially obstruct what will form part of the proposed shared use cycle track route itself. The introduction of double yellow lines at this location (which covers the width of the highway from its centreline of the carriageway) will enable the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers to carry out enforcement of the area providing additional enforcement resources in addition to any enforcement the Police are able to carry out in respect of this type of parking to protect the shared use cycle path.

The four disabled persons blue badge holders parking bays currently located on the west side of Durham Road south its junction with Summerfield Road were introduced a number of years ago in association with the requirements of the persons visiting the former Gateshead College.

As Gateshead College has now been relocated and the former site of the college has been redeveloped, the requirement for the blue badge holders parking bays at this location is no longer relevant. The introduction of the no waiting at any time restriction will still enable blue badge holders to park at the location for up to 3 hours.