

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Date: 15 December 2020

Title: Proposed Zebra Crossing – Preston Road, North Shields

Portfolio(s):	Environment and Transport	Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr C Johnson
Report from Service Area: Environment, Housing and Leisure			
Responsible Officer:	Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure	(Tel: 0191 643 7295)	
Wards affected:	Preston		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to introduce a zebra crossing on Preston Road, North Shields, and set aside one response received to the proposal.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

- (1) considers the response;
- (2) sets aside the response in the interests of improving road safety; and
- (3) determines that the proposed zebra crossing should be introduced.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Considering objections relating to proposed Traffic Regulation Orders and representations relating to proposed pedestrian crossings and road humps is a standing item on the Forward Plan.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The proposals in this report relate to the following priority in Our North Tyneside, the Council Plan 2020 to 2024:

- Our places will:
 - have an effective transport and physical infrastructure

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The proposal to introduce a zebra crossing on Preston Road was developed as part of the Authority's efforts to improve road safety. Funding has been allocated from the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan to undertake this scheme to improve pedestrian access to the nearby Christ Church Primary School in particular.

The proposal was developed following a school safety audit carried out as part of a boroughwide programme conducted during 2017-18 to improve road safety around and encourage sustainable trips to every school in North Tyneside. Infrastructure improvements associated with this programme have been introduced across the borough since 2017 with particular consideration for schools where road safety concerns have been raised in the vicinity. It is hoped that the measures will contribute to a reduction in the number of parents driving their children to school which will support healthy and active travel and reduce levels of congestion in the area at school start and end times.

The proposal primarily consists of installing a zebra crossing on Preston Road to the south of its junction with Alma Place. As part of this work, it is proposed to widen the existing footway adjacent to the junction. It is acknowledged that A192 Preston Road is one of the Strategic Cycling Routes identified on the "tube map" in the North Tyneside Cycling Strategy and the proposed crossing and associated works are compatible with a route of this nature.

In accordance with the statutory process, a Notice of Intention for the proposal was displayed on site, in the local newspaper and on the Authority's website.

Letters were also sent to those residents of Preston Road and Alma Place who would be directly affected by the proposed scheme.

One response which was unfavourable to aspects of the proposals was received in response to the statutory Notice of Intention. A summary of this representation is provided below.

Following the statutory consultation, officers became aware that the Authority's scheme of delegation did not allow the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to consider representations and take decisions (when representations unfavourable to proposals were made and not withdrawn), on proposals for new road humps and new pedestrian crossings. Following discussions between senior officers and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, a proposal to make the necessary amendments

to the scheme of delegation was brought forward. This was approved by the Elected Mayor and the scheme of delegation was changed accordingly.

It should be noted that the requirement to amend the Authority's scheme of delegation has resulted in a significant delay in the objection to the proposed zebra crossing on Preston Road being presented for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

1.5.2 Statutory Consultation

Before establishing, altering or removing a crossing, local authorities must consult the police and give public notice of the proposal. Schemes are advertised on site, in the local press and on the Authority's website. This enables members of the public or businesses make representations in respect of the proposal. Any respondents unfavourable to aspects of the proposals are first sent a detailed response and invited to reconsider. Any such representations not withdrawn are referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Cabinet Members.

1.5.3 Summary of Representations

Ms G wrote to the Authority and indicated that she wished to object to the implementation of the zebra crossing on the grounds that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the amount of available on-street parking in the area, particularly in the evenings and on Sundays. She asked for consideration to be given to an amendment to the operating hours of the loading bay at this location to allow it to be used for parking in the evening.

An officer contacted the respondent to inform her that the proposal was intended to improve road safety and encourage more sustainable trips to the nearby school. It was also confirmed that discussions had taken place about reducing the operating hours of the loading bay, however concerns had been raised and consequently the proposal had not been progressed.

Ms G was given the opportunity to withdraw her representation in light of this information by responding to officers in writing by 22 February 2019. No response was received.

An officer contacted the respondent again on 21st October 2020 to inform her that following further consultation, a proposal to reduce the operating hours of the loading bay in the vicinity of the proposed crossing was now due to be taken forward. If implemented, this would have the effect of creating some additional parking provision in the area in the evenings and on Sundays. Ms G was asked to reconsider her representation in light of this information by responding to officers in writing by 4 November 2020. No response was received.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

Option 1

Approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2.

Option 2

Not approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended as the proposal will improve road safety and facilitate more sustainable trips to the nearby Christ Church Primary School.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 Details of representation and associated correspondence

Appendix 2 Notice of Intention advertised on site

Appendix 3 Copy of Proposed Plan

1.9 Contact officers:

Andrew Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, 0191 643 6083

Nick Saunders, Senior Traffic Engineer, Capita, 0191 643 6598

Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, 0191 643 5727

1.10 Background information:

[North Tyneside Transport Strategy](#)

[North Tyneside Travel Safety Strategy](#)

[North Tyneside Cycling Strategy](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Funding is available from the 2020/21 (Road Safety Initiatives) Local Transport Plan capital budget.

2.2 Legal

Local authorities may introduce formal pedestrian crossings under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Before establishing, altering or removing a crossing, local authorities must consult the police and give public notice of the proposal.

All such schemes are formally advertised and include a 21-day period for representations. Before implementing the proposed scheme, the Authority considers any representations received and can decide whether to implement the proposed scheme unchanged, to implement it with modifications or not to proceed with the scheme.

In accordance with the Authority's scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members, if any representations unfavourable to the scheme cannot be resolved, then the Cabinet

Member for Environment and Transport is asked to consider these and thereafter determine if a pedestrian crossing should be established.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal consultation

Ward members' views on the proposal were sought as described in section 1.5.1.

2.3.2 Community engagement

Local residents' views on the proposal were sought as described in section 1.5.1. The proposal was advertised in line with statutory process as described in section 1.5.2.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no adverse equalities or diversity issues arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive ☐
- Head of Service ☐
- Mayor/Cabinet Member ☐
- Chief Finance Officer ☐
- Monitoring Officer ☐
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service ☐

Details of Representation – Ms. G (Dated 23rd January 2019)

Dear Sirs,

The proposed Zebra Crossing on Preston Rd will unfortunately further restrict the limited evening and Sunday parking in that area.

Changing the current 24hr restriction order outside the book shop to the more usual 'No parking 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday' would release one space at those times.

Yours faithfully,

Ms G

Officer Response (Dated 13th February 2019)

Dear Ms G,

I am contacting you following your formal objection for the zebra crossing proposed on Preston Road.

Whilst I appreciate that you are concerned about the reduction in parking capacity, officers believe that due to the crossing being proposed so close to the junction, it should have a minimal impact on the on-street parking provision. The proposed zebra crossing has also been designed to be the minimum width that would be suitable for the amount of pedestrian movements which will reduce the amount of kerb space that will be taken up, should the zebra crossing be installed.

The reason that the zebra crossing is being installed is to support North Tyneside Councils Sustainable Links to Schools initiative, which aims to provide safer and more sustainable routes for children. If the zebra crossing was to be installed it would act as a safer route for children to cross Preston Road on their route Christ Church C of E School.

We did attempt to reduce the operational hours of the loading bay outside of the book shop however there were objections during the informal consultation period which meant that the proposal was not taken further.

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing or by email before the 22nd February. If I do not hear from you before then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this scheme in due course.

Further Correspondence from Officer (Dated 21st October 2020)

Dear Ms G,

I hope you are well. I am contacting you once again following your formal objection which you made several months ago for the proposal to install a zebra crossing on Preston Road.

Within your original objection, you did express concerns about the reduction in parking capacity as a result of the proposed crossing. I can confirm that we have now been able to liaise with the book shop to amend the existing hours of the loading bay outside of their premises which will provide additional parking on an evening.

This amendment will be advertised in the coming months and in light of this information if you would like to withdraw your objection I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing or by responding to this email before the 4th November. If I do not hear back, I will assume that you still wish to object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to the scheme in due course.

**NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
PRESTON ROAD, NORTH SHIELDS – PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING**

North Tyneside Council hereby gives notice in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police, that it proposes to establish a zebra crossing on Preston Avenue, North Shields at a point 3m south of its junction with Alma Place.

Further details of the proposals, may be examined at the address below between 8.30am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays or on the Council's website www.northtyneside.gov.uk (Statutory Notices). If you wish to object to the proposals, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to the undersigned or via email to democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk by 24 January 2019. Any objections received will be placed in the working file and can be viewed by the public if requested.

20 December 2018

Head of Law & Governance

Quadrant, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

