

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet Member for Environment

Date: 9 January 2023

Title: Pedestrian crossings – A191 Front Street and Four Lane Ends area, Benton

Portfolio(s): Environment	Cabinet Member(s): Councillor S Graham
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Report from Service Area: Regeneration and Economic Development

Responsible Officer: John Sparkes, Director of Regeneration and Economic Development (Tel: 0191 643 7295)

Wards affected: Benton

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet Member for Environment to upgrade two pedestrian crossings to toucan crossings, suitable for people walking, wheeling and cycling, on A191 Front Street and at its junction with Coach Lane, Benton, and to set aside one objection received to the proposal.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment:

- (1) considers the objection;
- (2) sets aside the objection in the interests of increasing safety for all road users and contributing to ensuring that highway conditions are conducive to support greater usage of cycling, walking and wheeling; and
- (3) determines that pedestrian crossings should be established in accordance with the proposal.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Considering any representations received in relation to proposals to establish a pedestrian crossing, and thereafter determining if a pedestrian crossing should be established, 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 2021 to 2025:

- A green North Tyneside
 - We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Authority has obtained grant funding from the Government's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) to improve accessibility by public transport, cycling, walking and wheeling to Four Lane Ends Metro and bus interchange.

The proposals associated with this report involve improvements to cycling, walking and wheeling links to Four Lane Ends interchange from the Benton area.

The proposals involve footway widening, street furniture de-cluttering and two upgraded crossing points. They have been designed to ensure that highway conditions are conducive to support greater usage of cycling, walking and wheeling.

Engagement on the full scheme was carried out in Summer 2021, via a news item on the Authority's website linking to the 'Placechangers' consultation website. Feedback from this engagement informed the process of detailed design.

Ward Councillors were updated on the proposals. Households and premises directly affected by the proposals were contacted by letter.

The proposal was advertised in accordance with the Authority's usual procedure as set out in section 2.2 and one formal objection to the proposal was received.

1.5.2 Statutory Consultation

Proposals to establish pedestrian crossings are subject to statutory legal process as described in section 2.2: this includes the local authority giving public notice of the proposals and taking such other steps as it may consider appropriate for ensuring adequate publicity. In North Tyneside, this includes notices advertising proposals being displayed on affected streets and on the Authority's website. This enables members of the public or businesses to object to the proposal. Any objectors are sent a response and invited to reconsider their objection. Any objections not withdrawn are referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment for consideration in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Cabinet Members.

1.5.3 Summary of Objections

An individual, **Mr C** submitted an objection to the scheme based on his view that the proposal could put people who were walking at risk from other people who were cycling, unless wider changes were made to the approaches to the crossings. He also stated that when on foot he had experienced behaviour by people cycling which he felt was irresponsible, notably at the north east corner of the A188 Benton Lane-A191 Front Street junction.

An officer wrote to the objector to clarify that the proposals included localised widening on the northern side of Front Street adjacent to the Four Lane Ends Junction to provide a shared surface footway, and an upgrade of two pedestrian crossings to Toucan crossings.

It was advised that, although constrained width meant it was not possible to widen the footway at all points, the section of footway on the north side closest to Four Lane Ends Junction would be substantially widened on the approach to the crossing, and tactile paving would be included at the crossing itself. It was further noted that there would be a rationalisation of street furniture, which would improve available width for people cycling or walking.

The objector was invited to reconsider his objection and was advised that the objection, if not withdrawn, would be referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment for consideration. No further correspondence was received.

Full details of the objection and officer's response are included at Appendix 1 of this report.

1.6 Decision options:

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

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 in the interests of increasing safety for all road users and contributing to ensuring that highway conditions are conducive to support greater usage of cycling, walking and wheeling.

1.8 Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Details of objection and associated correspondence
- Appendix 2 Notice advertised on site
- Appendix 3 Copy of Proposed Plan
- Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment

1.9 Contact officers:

Kenneth Horn, Senior Traffic Engineer, WSP, 07595 180677
Nick Saunders, Senior Traffic Engineer, Capita, 0191 643 6598
Andrew Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, 0191 643 6083
Amar Hassan, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, 0191 643 5747

1.10 Background information:

- (1) [North Tyneside Transport Strategy](#)
- (2) [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984](#)
- (3) [The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Funding to advertise and implement the proposals is available from the grant funding from the Government's Transforming Cities Fund.

2.2 Legal

Proposals that involve revocations or amendments to the provision of pedestrian crossings and the installation of any new pedestrian crossings are subject to statutory legal process set out in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Regulations that flow from that Act, namely, The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. The authority which makes the proposal is required to consult the chief officer of police about its proposal and give public notice of the proposal.

In North Tyneside, in addition to being advertised in a local newspaper, notices advertising the proposal are displayed on the Authority's website and on roads affected by the order. Documents relating to the proposal are also available for public inspection at the Authority's offices at Quadrant. Objections to the proposal may be made within a period of 21 days starting from the date the notice was published.

In accordance with the Authority's scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members, if any objections cannot be resolved, then the Cabinet Member for Environment is asked to consider those representations made and not withdrawn and to determine if a pedestrian crossing should be established.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal consultation

Internal consultation has involved the Cabinet Member for Environment. Ward Members' views on the proposal were sought as described in section 1.5.1.

2.3.2 Community engagement

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

An Equality Impact Assessment for the Transforming Cities Fund – Four Lane Ends area A191 cycling and walking improvements has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 4 to this report. This notes that several identified potential impacts are positive, e.g. for people who currently experience difficulty crossing the road, and that actions are specified to reduce the identified potential negative impact, which relates to temporary arrangements during construction.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report. Strategic and operational risks associated with transport matters are assessed via the established corporate process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are potential positive environment and sustainability implications in that the proposals support the use of more sustainable modes of transport in preference to car use.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive

Details of Objection – Mr C (Dated 15 October 2022)

Without changes to the existing footpath approaches to these crossings this gives cyclists carte-blanche to put pedestrians at risk. I am a cyclist but have suffered as a pedestrian from irresponsible cyclists, particularly at the north east corner of the junction between Benton Lane and Front Street.

Officer Response (Dated 23 November 2022)

In response to your recent query to North Tyneside Council regarding Front Street, Benton, we can confirm that the scheme proposals for A191 Front Street include localised widening on the northern side of Front Street adjacent to the Four Lane Ends Junction to provide a shared surface footway, and an upgrade of two pedestrian crossings to Toucan crossings to improve cycle provision between Four lane Ends and the Coach Lane Junction. This will help to improve cycling links to Four Lane Ends Metro station.

Owing to constrained width on this section of road, which is one of the main strategic highway routes through the borough, it is not possible to widen the footway at all points; however, the section of footway on the north side closest to Four Lane Ends junction will be substantially widened on the approach to the crossing and tactile paving will be included at the crossing itself. There will also be a rationalisation of street furniture to improve available width, which will assist in accommodating people both cycling and walking.

I trust this has been helpful and we would be grateful if you could confirm whether you wish to withdraw your representations.

If representations are not withdrawn it is intended that they will be included in a report for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Environment. Thank you for taking the time to contact us.

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
Pedestrian Crossings - Front Street, Benton and Prudhoe Terrace, North Shields

North Tyneside Council gives notice under Section 23(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police that it proposes to:

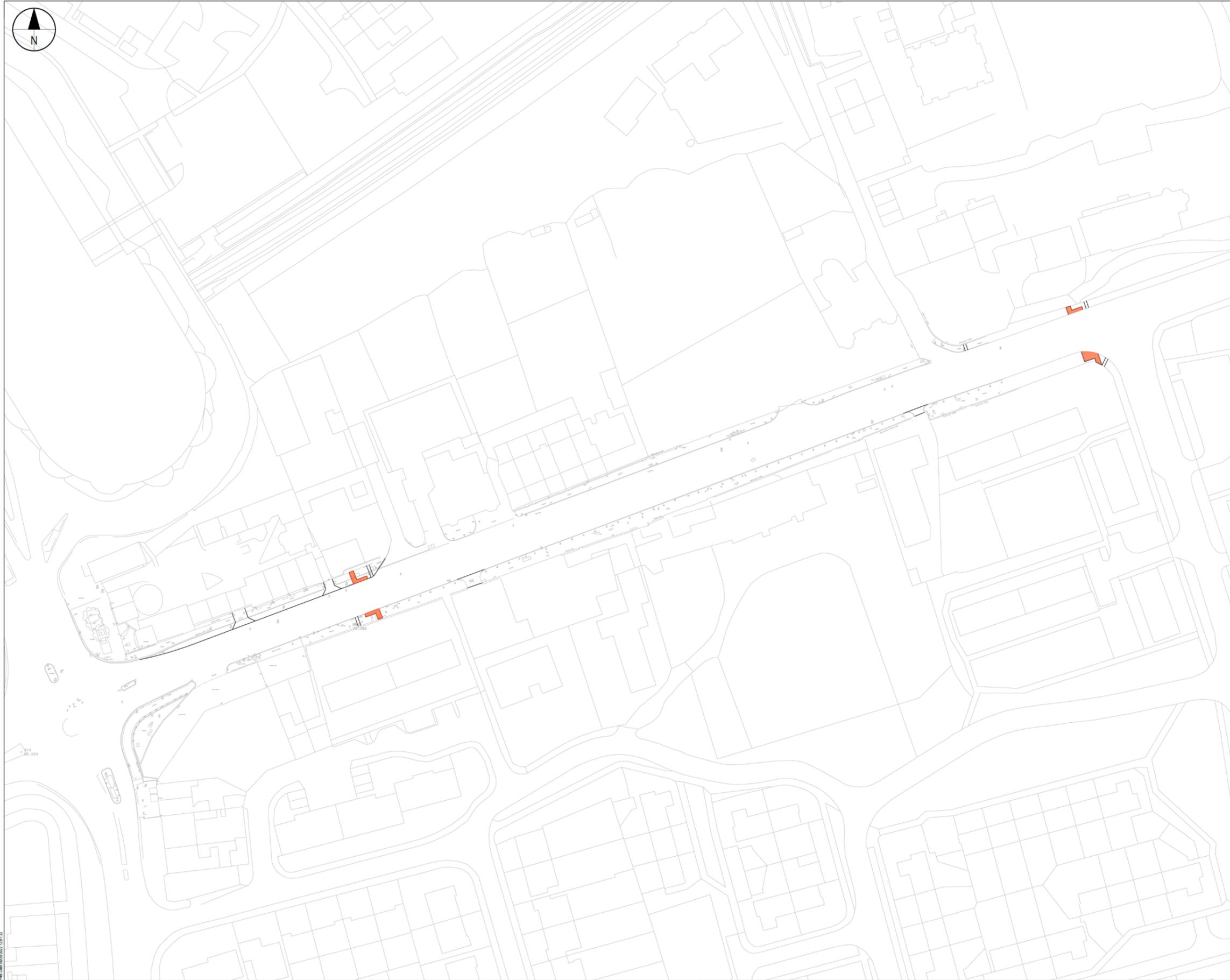
- a) upgrade existing puffin crossings to toucan crossings on Front Street/A191, Benton at
 - (i) a point 82 metres east of its junction with Benton Lane, from the southern kerblines of Front Street/A191 in a northerly direction to the northern kerblines of Front Street/A191; and
 - (ii) at its junction with Coach Lane (west side), from the southern kerblines of Front Street/A191 in a northerly direction to the northern kerblines of Front Street/A191
- b) establish three pedestrian crossings on:
 - (i) Waterville Road, North Shields at a point 15 metres west of its junction with Prudhoe Terrace, from the southern kerb line of Waterville Road in a northerly direction to the northern kerb line of Waterville Road;
 - (ii) Prudhoe Terrace, North Shields at a point 25m northwest of its junction with Waterville Road, from the southwestern kerb line of Prudhoe Terrace in a north easterly direction to the north-eastern kerb line of Prudhoe Terrace; and
 - (iii) Prudhoe Street, North Shields at a point 34m east of its junction with Prudhoe Terrace, from the north-western kerb line of Prudhoe Street in a south easterly direction to the south-eastern kerb line of Prudhoe Street.

Further details of the proposals may be examined in the documents available 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 31 October 2022. Any objections may be published as part of any reports to councillors on the matter. If you need us to do anything differently (reasonable adjustments) to help you access our services, including providing this information in another language or format, please contact sustainabletravel@northtyneside.gov.uk or telephone 0191 643 6500.

10 October 2022

Law & Governance, Quadrant, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

Appendix 3



NOTES:

1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER RELEVANT DRAWINGS, ANY DISCREPANCIES, ERRORS OR OMISSIONS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF CAPITA.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON SITE.
3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

KEY:



Rev	Drawn	Checked	App'd	Description	Date
P01	AD	LJS	CH	Issued for Information	27/04/2022

Rev	Drawn	Checked	App'd	Description	Date

Purpose of Issue

S2 - Issued for Information

Classification

Client
North Tyneside Council

Project
TCF Routes to Metro

Drawing
Four Lane Ends Proposed

Scale @ A1	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1:500	AD	LJS	CH

Project No.	Date
CS100301	27/04/2022

Drawing Identifier	Revision
Project - Operator - Zone - Level - File Type - Role - Number	BS1192 Compliant
TCF-CAP-LSI-4LE-DR-C-0001	P01



INFRASTRUCTURE
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