

## Highways Committee

13 March 2015

### Consett Academy, Consett Waiting Restrictions



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## Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

### Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

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#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise the Committee on representations received to the proposed waiting restrictions around the vicinity of Consett Academy, Consett.

#### Background

- 2 In 2015 Consett Academy, which comprises the schools formally known as Consett Community Sports College and Moorside Community College, will move into a new purpose built campus for 1,700 pupils on a site which lies to the north of Consett Town Centre.
- 3 The site was formally used for a mix of leisure and business related purposes. These included the Belle Vue Leisure Centre, Consett Football Club and Consett and District Rugby Club and their related playing fields. The site also incorporated the site of the former Derwentside District Council Offices.
- 4 Vehicular access to the Academy is to be taken from Ashdale Road. It is also intended to utilise the existing vehicular access arrangement from Medomsley Road, which formally served the Council offices, to serve the proposed leisure centre car park. Pedestrian accesses to the Academy (pupil and visitor) will be provided from an extended paved boulevard off Ashdale Road with a footpath link to both facilities to the northern side of the Academy from Villa Real Road.
- 5 As part of the Planning Approval for the Academy campus a condition was imposed *'That a scheme of traffic management comprising waiting restrictions, and a pedestrian link footpath to the school shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences. The approved works shall be implemented prior to occupation of the Academy and thereafter maintained in accordance with the agreed scheme'*.

#### Proposals

- 6 The proposed scheme includes the introduction of various waiting restrictions around the vicinity of the Academy, as per Appendix 2, to help deter school

gate parking problems which otherwise would lead to congestion and access problems for all road users.

- 7 The proposal will include the construction of a link footpath on the A691 Villa Real Road to link the Academy to the existing bus stop and footpath infrastructure.

## **Consultation**

- 8 An informal consultation encompassing all affected properties in the immediate vicinity of the Academy and the statutory consultees was undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014. See Appendix 3.
- 9 Of the 134 informal consultation letters sent to properties directly affected by the proposals, a total of 37 responses were received. Of the 37 responses, 18 were in favour of the proposals whilst 19 were against. The remaining consultees who did not respond are deemed to have no preference. A further letter was sent to those who made representation clarifying a number of issues and, as it stands based on the proposal put forward, 34 are in favour of the proposals and 3 remain with representations against the proposal.
- 10 The statutory Traffic Regulation Order consultation took place between the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015. No formal objections were received during this period, however the 3 representations received during the non- statutory consultation have not been withdrawn and are considered below.

## **Representation and Responses**

- 11 Representation 1

The proposal will force parking onto Medomsley Road affecting residential parking. (1 respondent stated this reason)

*Response: School gate parking is a problematic issue which we are faced with outside of the majority of schools within the County and, indeed, nationally. Unfortunately, this is not an easy issue to resolve. It will be inevitable that some vehicle displacement may occur during the Academy peak times.*

*The restrictions have been designed in order to control and regulate the parking around the new Academy. Undoubtedly, there will be a higher influx of traffic within this area and, as such, parking restrictions will be necessary.*

- 12 Representation 2

Motorists park on the Keep Clear marking now so why waste money and change them to double yellow lines when they don't get enforced.  
(1 respondent stated this reason)

*Response: The areas of no waiting proposed around the vicinity of Bramwell and Walton Terrace are to replace the current Keep Clear markings. The existing Keep Clear markings are advisory and have no legal backing. However, they do give the Police greater support when dealing with motorists*

*who may have parked in an obstructive manner. By changing the advisory Keep Clear markings to double yellow lines gives greater powers of enforcement. The enforcement of will be undertaken by contractors employed on behalf of Durham County Council.*

**13 Representation 3**

This will force people to park in nearby estates i.e. Oakdale, Ashdale and Elmdale causing utter chaos to residents. (1 respondent stated this reason)

*Response: School gate parking is a problematic issue which we are faced with outside of the majority of schools within the County. Unfortunately, this is not an easy issue to resolve. It will be inevitable that some vehicle displacement may occur during the Academy peak times.*

*The restrictions have been designed in order to control and regulate the parking around the most sensitive areas where children will gain access to, and egress from, the Academy. The extent of the restrictions has been determined to balance the needs of residents and other road users whilst focusing on road safety for pedestrians.*

**Statutory Representations**

**14** The Statutory Notice for the implementation of the waiting restrictions was advertised on site and in the local press between the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**15** Durham Constabulary, the North East Ambulance Service and Pat Glass MP responded to the consultation giving their support to the proposals.

**Local Member Consultation**

**16** Local Councillors Owen Temple and Alex Watson have been consulted and have not commented on the scheme.

**Recommendations and reasons**

**17** It is recommended that the Committee having considered all the representations on this proposal agree to the Corporate Director proceeding with the implementation of the waiting restrictions, as per the plan in Appendix 2.

**Background papers**

**18** Correspondence on Office File.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – The ‘Building Schools for the Future’ project is funding the highway / traffic management works

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** – If the scheme was not to proceed there is a risk that road safety would be compromised

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – None

**Accommodation** – None

**Crime and Disorder** – None

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – As described in the report

**Procurement** – Works to be delivered by Highway Services

**Disability Issues** – None

**Legal Implications** – The measures are being introduced in accordance with the current legislation