

REF LRLCWIP2

Dear Resident/proprietor,

**RE: LINTHORPE ROAD WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION**

Following conclusion of the consultation on the above proposal, the Council has considered the responses and summarised a position as per below.

**Why are we doing this?**

Convenient and accessible transport is a major determining factor on a number of local issues such as economic activity, climate change, public realm and the health and wellbeing of our communities. The historic reliance on the private car for transport is not sustainable for the long-term support of these factors.

Congestion is one of the major causes of economic decline, as the movement of people and goods is disrupted. The growth of more cars in to our town centre will increase congestion, which will ultimately be detrimental to the Linthorpe Road area and the local economy. Middlesbrough Council is resolved to invest in our local transport network to provide critical access to business and communities, both now and in the future.

Linthorpe Road currently handles around 10,000 vehicles per day, which creates congestion and a number of environmental factors that are not conducive to a pleasant urban environment. The road is not a safe space for all road users, with a record of 37 accidents recorded in the past five years. Pedestrians and cyclists disproportionately make up the majority of all accidents (81%) occurring at junctions. The proposals aim to deliver changes that will significantly reduce the risk of accidents whilst improving accessibility and amenity for all in the surrounding area.

Therefore, alternate modes of travel must be considered as part of the response in order to achieve a more vibrant Town Centre, where people want to live and spend time for retail and leisure experiences. Early investment in transport infrastructure will sustain and grow business, along with enhancing the enjoyment of the area with its renowned vitality and vibrancy. This is a long-term goal, which will help to future proof long-term viability and prosperity of Middlesbrough.

The proposals outlined are in line with Department for Transport guidance, and is the first phase in an ambitious long-term plan to create an integrated walking and cycling network right across Middlesbrough, to make local journeys without adding to congestion, air quality and will help to improve public health and wellbeing. The aim is to make walking and cycling a safe and viable option for anyone living and working in Middlesbrough.

## Consultation process

The benefits of the scheme will be realised by all future users of the facilities over the coming years and future generations of residents, commuters and visitors to Middlesbrough. Although it would not be possible to consult with all of those potentially benefiting from the proposals, the Council (in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority) engaged in a consultation to explore the potential issues and concerns of people directly affected by its implementation; in order to develop proposals that balance the long term benefits, with minimising the immediate localised impacts. This included writing to all directly impacted (front facing) businesses and residents within the scope of the proposal; along with other stakeholders. All were encouraged to submit a response to the survey. The consultation was live between 14/12/2020 and 29/1/2021, extended to 3/2/2021 allowing additional time for stakeholders to present their views. 439 responses were received in total.

## Analysis

- 71% of respondents being directly affected by the changes were not in favour of the proposals, with the majority citing that removal of the car parking bays would be bad for business / be inconvenient for customers.
- Currently, 85% of people travel along Linthorpe Road by car, taxi or motorbike.
- 63% of respondents encounter issues on the Linthorpe Road corridor, which is predominantly focussed upon availability of parking and congestion.
- 64% of people were not supportive of the closure of side roads fearing it would create parking issues
- 79% of respondents believed that the proposals would make deliveries/loading for businesses more difficult.
- Safety concerns raised as a result of the proposals consist of increased cycle collisions, parking issues, insufficient widths available and anti-social behaviour.
- Loss of bus stops and taxi rank provision was also raised as an issue;

## Conclusions

Middlesbrough Council is, through consultation, committed to developing a solution that provides opportunity for more walkers and cyclists to enjoy central Middlesbrough, whilst investing in transformative changes to ensure the character of this vital and vibrant town centre area is protected and enhanced for future generations. All this, while limiting the short term impact on local residents and businesses.

As expected, the majority of respondents (71%) directly affected by the changes weren't in favour of the proposals, mainly citing issues relating to the perception that the removal of the car parking spaces is detrimental to businesses. As analysis of the pay and display tickets in the area indicates that only 33% of the available parking capacity on Linthorpe Road is being utilised, the proposed removal of 30% of these parking spaces should not have a significant impact on the visitor experience.

There are also a significant number of other car parking facilities within a relatively short walk of Linthorpe Road, including at Amber Street; of which 34% of respondents were not aware. Additionally, side street car parking will be retained in full as part of the proposals, and disabled parking bays created on side roads. The Council has also started looking into the possibility of increasing off-street car parking spaces in the surrounding area, as well improving the safety and security of the existing car parking spaces nearby.

In developing the proposals, the well-documented Living Streets "pedestrian pound" [pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](#) report has been considered, which highlights the success of local economies following vehicle restrictions. This is due to improved local environment (less

noise/pollution/congestion) which encourages people to spend more time in an area, and ultimately spend more money. There is no evidence to suggest that this benefit would not be replicated in this part of Middlesbrough over time; as pedestrians and cyclists become more confident to use the area.

### Mitigation

The Council has reviewed all of the suggested changes that have been put forward by respondents, and are able to accommodate many of these in revised proposals for the scheme. These include:

| Issue Raised                                     | Solution   |
|--|--|
| Insufficient car parking space available         | The Council will look at creating more spaces along side streets, as well as potential alternate sites. The current alternatives will be promoted through improved experience, lighting and greater signage to and from car parks. |
| The road is not wide enough for the proposals    | Some localised widening will be incorporated where possible to create extra widths for car parking spaces - a buffer between the spaces and the cycle lane and carriageway widening.   |
| Insufficient loading capabilities                | Permit loading will be made available within the retained car parking spaces on Linthorpe Road, as well as looking to increase loading bays in the future.   |
| Inaccessible disabled parking                    | 5 disabled car-parking bays will be provided on accessible side streets.   |
| Distance between proposed bus stops is too great | The bus stops north of Ayresome Street will be reinstated within the revised scheme.   |

The revised proposals will provide a greater balance between achieving the long term objectives of more sustainable travel, with minimising the localised effects of the changes being implemented.

### Next steps

The Council's Executive will be presented with the findings of the consultation, to consider implementation of the proposed revisions and an updated scheme.