



# Northumberland

## County Council

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL  
DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

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PETITION – WENTWORTH CAR PARK & ALEMOUTH ROAD CAR PARK,  
HEXHAM

**Report of: Service Director - Local Services, Paul Jones**

**Cabinet Member: John Riddle, Environment and Local Services**

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### **Purpose of report**

To respond to the e petition which closed on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 regarding the provision of long stay parking bays at Wentworth Car Park and Alemouth Road Car Park in Hexham.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report, and are made aware that the issue raised has now been resolved as detailed in the decision report “Introduction of and Amendments to Off-Street Car Parks, Hexham” which is attached as Appendix A.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

How - “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone”

Enjoying - “We want you to love where you live”

Connecting - “We want you to have access to the things you need”

### **Key Issues**

1. The County Council has invested in additional car park capacity for Hexham through the creation of the new 250 space long stay car park at Alemouth Road (the Bunker site). This investment resulted from the Hexham Parking Study which was completed in 2017 and which forecasted an additional 247 spaces being needed by 2031.
2. Following creation of this additional parking, consideration had been given to the correct balance of long stay, medium stay and short stay parking in the town centre. This had also been recommended in the 2017 parking study. Proposals had therefore been put forward to convert all of the long stay parking in Wentworth car park to medium stay, with the long stay provision being provided at Alemouth Road. A Delegated Decision Report had been approved to this effect.
3. However, concerns were raised by local County Councillors and other local stakeholders about the proposed removal of all of the long stay parking facilities in Wentworth Car Park.

4. A petition was also opened on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 requesting that Northumberland County Council keep Wentworth Car Park “as is” with no change so the additional long stay bays at the Hexham Alemouth Road Car Park (bunker site) help to meet the high demand of all day parking in Hexham. The petition closed with 564 signatures on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
5. In response to the concerns raised, further consideration has been given to the balance of long stay and medium stay parking. These changes occurred during the period the petition was open. The new proposal is that rather than converting all long stay spaces within Wentworth car park to medium stay, approximately 100 of the all-day parking spaces within the Wentworth car park will be retained, with the remaining all-day spaces converted to medium stay parking. This therefore provides the overall net gain in long stay parking spaces that the petition sought with a significant number of long stay spaces being retained in Wentworth car park.
6. An addendum to the original decision report was prepared and agreed and can be found in Appendix A below. This was signed on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Traffic Regulation Order for the proposed changes was advertised from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and no objections were received. The Alemouth Road car park opened to the public at the end of November 2022 and the changes to Wentworth car park are due to take place during January 2023 to avoid any disruption from re-lining activity in the car park on the busy run-up to Christmas.

## **Background**

### **The Petition**

7. The County Council has received a 564-name petition stating, “We are petitioning NCC to keep Wentworth Car Parking as is so the additional long stay bays at the Hexham Alemouth Road Car Park (bunker site) help to meet the high demand of all day parking in Hexham”.

“The decision from NCC is to make Wentworth Car Park short and medium parking only, with all long stay parking only available at the Hexham Alemouth Car Park (bunker site). Wentworth currently has 283 long stay bays which will all become max 4 hour stay bays. It is understood there will be 250 white bays at the bunker site. The long stay parking availability in Hexham will be reduced by 33 spaces”.

“The Hexham Alemouth Road Car Park (bunker site) includes the newly built Travel Lodge. We can easily assume that some of their guests will park in the white / long stay bays which may further reduce the total number of white / long stay bays”.

“We do not believe you should prioritise one demographic over another. Residents (who live in close proximity to Wentworth without parking or on street parking and unable to purchase residents parking permits), workers in local businesses/ hospital, commuters, guests at Hexham hotels without parking (such as The County and (under renovation) Coach & Horses), residents of Hexham and tourists who want to stay more than 4 hours could be impacted by the decision and are valid when considering parking needs of the town”.

“We should be encouraging visitors to Hexham to stay longer than four hours! Hexham is holding more & more events which encourages visitors to stay all day - the proposal actively hinders this”.

“The blue / medium stay bays at Wentworth Car Park usually have the most spaces available, therefore the logic of creating additional blue / medium stay bays is perplexing. The long stay / white bays are in high demand, so reducing the capacity by 30 with potential further loss to travel lodge guests and making them less accessible is equally baffling”.

## Comments

8. Since the petition report was created, an addendum to the original decision report has been agreed. This was signed on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023. A copy of this report, titled “Introduction of and Amendments to Off-Street Car Parks, Hexham” is attached as Appendix A.

It has therefore been agreed to retain approximately 100 of the all-day parking spaces within Wentworth car park with the maximum length of stay of 24 hours and no return within 4 hours, with the remaining all day spaces converted to medium stay parking.

## Proposed Actions

9. None required as issue has already been resolved.

## Implications

<b>Policy</b>	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	n/a
<b>Legal</b>	The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions of the Council’s Executive.
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached)	None

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	n/a
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	n/a
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Issues the petition has identified have already been addressed.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	n/a
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	n/a
<b>Wards</b>	Hexham Central with Acomb & Hexham East

### Background papers

None

### Appendix Index

Appendix A – Delegated Decision Report “Introduction of and Amendments to Off-Street Car Parks, Hexham”

### Report sign off

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Rob Murfin
Acting Chief Executive	Rick O’Farrell
Portfolio Holder	John Riddle

### Author and Contact Details

Neil Snowdon – Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement Team)

APPENIDIX A – Addendum to Delegated Decision Report “Introduction of and Amendments to Off-Street Car Parks, Hexham”

**Delegated Decision**



**Northumberland**  
County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY  
SERVICE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES**

**Paul Jones**

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**ADDENDUM**

**Introduction of and Amendments to Off-Street Car Parks, Hexham**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

**12 July 2022**

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**Purpose and Recommendations of Original Report**

**Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the background to the proposed changes to off-street car parking restrictions in Hexham town centre.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed time limit amendments to Wentworth Car Park and proposed restrictions at the new Hexham Alemouth Road Car Park (old bunker site) are implemented.

**Link to Corporate Plan**

Living - “We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for”  
Enjoying - “We want you to love where you live”

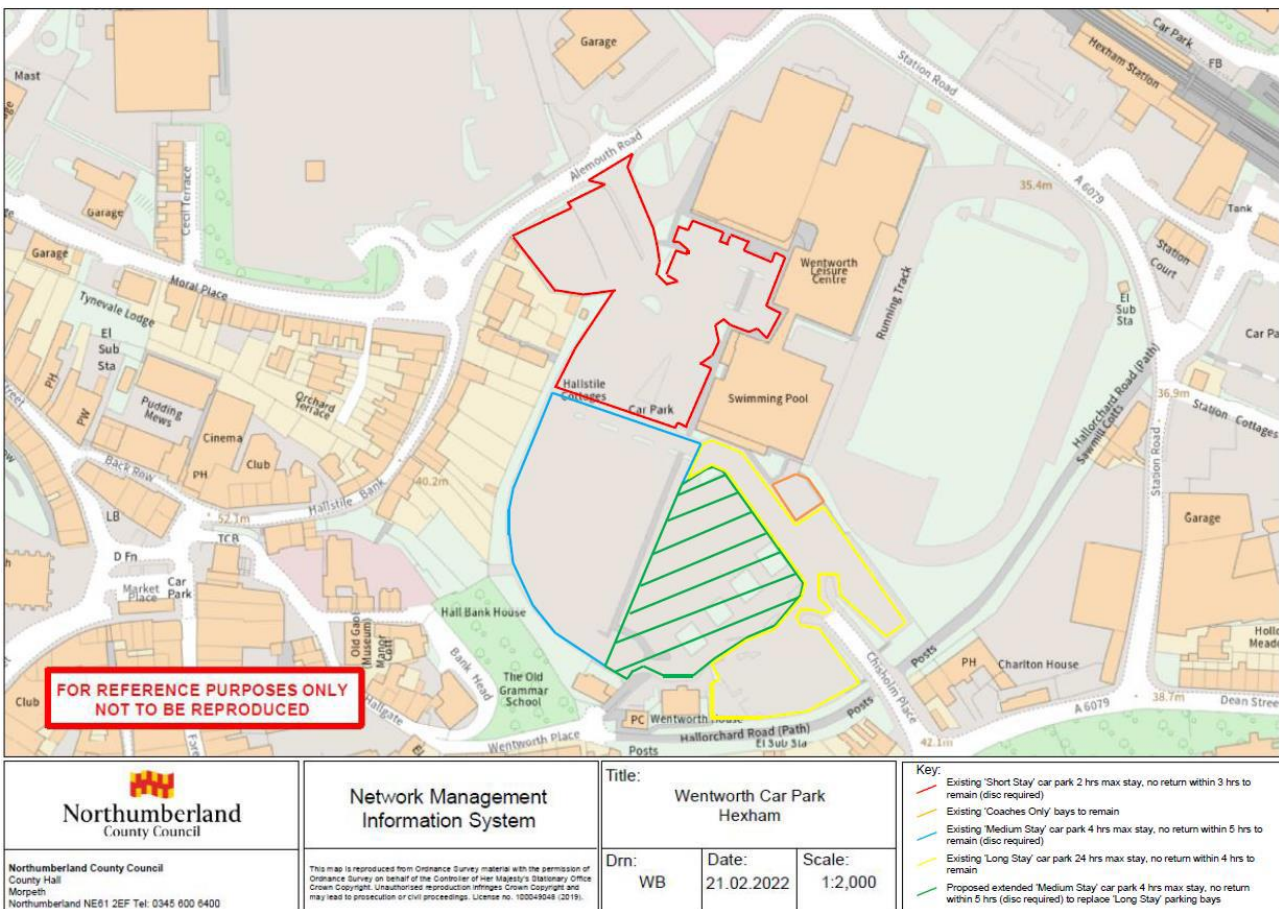
**Key Issues**

1. Studies carried out in 2017 identified a lack of available parking provision compared to demand in Northumberland’s main town centres including Hexham.
2. The proposal has been developed in order to encourage vehicle turnover and increase parking facilities at Wentworth Car Park and Alemouth Road Car Park.
3. The car park at the Hexham Alemouth site has been built by the developer and is to be purchased by the County Council, however the associated parking order changes will be funded from the 2022/23 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

## Purpose of Addendum

The original Delegated Decision Report approved proposals to replace all long-stay parking restrictions within Wentworth Car Park with medium stay parking, with 250 spaces designated for long-stay parking instead being made available in the new Alenmouth Road Car Park. However, concerns have been raised by local County Councillors and other local stakeholders about the proposed removal of all day parking facilities in Wentworth Car Park. It is therefore now proposed to retain approximately 100 of the all day parking spaces within Wentworth car park with the maximum length of stay of 24 hours and no return within 4 hours, with the remaining all day spaces converted to medium stay parking. Details of this new proposal can be found below in Figure 1.

It is still the County Council's intention to provide additional disabled parking bays along the south perimeter of Wentworth Car Park near to the public toilets, however these will not be restricted to the medium-stay hours identified within the car park signage. The exact location of these will be subsequently agreed once the new changes are approved.



**Fig. 1: Proposed amendments to Wentworth Car Park, Hexham**

The plan highlights the extents of each car park and the proposed area hatched in green indicates the approximate location of parking bays proposed to be reduced from a 24 hour maximum length of stay to a 4 hour maximum length of stay. An Intend Order for the proposals agreed in the original Delegated Decision was recently advertised. This will be withdrawn and a new Intend Order incorporating the new proposals will be prepared and advertised.



## Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Parking order changes will be funded from the 2022/23 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order
<b>Procurement</b>	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached)	N/A
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Off-street car parks provide a safer location to leave vehicles for all road users
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Hexham Central with Acomb & Hexham East

### Background Papers:

File reference –  
S:\Highways\PROJECT\18\FC PARKING SCHEMES\FC180024 - Hexham Bunker Site

### Author and Contact Details

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Report Author      **William Binks, Programme Officer**

### DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer:**      Service Director, Local Services  
**Subject:**              Proposed off-street car parking changes at Hexham.  
**Consultation:**        Statutory consultees will be notified of these changes.

**Decision Taken:**

To retain approximately 100 of the all day parking spaces within Wentworth car park with the maximum length of stay of 24 hours and no return within 4 hours, with the remaining all day spaces converted to medium stay parking.

Signature of Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J.P. Jones', is written in black ink. To the right of the signature is a vertical line that extends downwards to the date.

**Date**

13/07/2022