

Sunderland Moving Traffic Enforcement consultation

Sunderland City Council have the opportunity to apply for new civil powers to enforce moving traffic regulations under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA). This means that the City Council would be able to introduce measures to enforce certain types of moving traffic restrictions, for example cycle lanes, yellow box junctions, banned turns and no entries in locations where road users regularly ignore them.

The aims of undertaking enforcement would be to:

- ❖ improve highway safety, for example by improving road safety;
- ❖ reduce traffic congestion;
- ❖ improve air quality;
- ❖ improve bus journey reliability; and
- ❖ encourage highway users to choose sustainable transport modes.

Civil enforcement of moving traffic restrictions would be undertaken by using established Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera technology to issue fines sent by post for road users who continue to ignore the restrictions.

These powers will enable the council to expand the work it already does enforcing against unlawful and dangerous parking, and misuse of bus lanes/gates. The council’s Parking Services Team would carry out this enforcement work, as part of their current duties.

The Locations Of The Proposed Traffic Enforcement Measures

If the council are granted these powers through application to the Department for Transport (DfT), we will be able to use them across the city. However, at first we are planning to use the powers at four locations (listed below). Each location has been chosen because of poor compliance of the traffic rules in the area, potential delays to vehicles on the network including buses and road safety concerns.

The DfT has been very clear that the introduction of these enforcement powers is carried with a controlled and measured approach, and this includes a consultation on the use of cameras at each potential new location and the issuing of warning notices for first offences for the first six months of operation at each new site.

Before enforcement is undertaken the road signs and markings at each location would be assessed, with improvements made if necessary, to ensure the restriction is as clear as it can be and in full compliance with the regulations.

Proposed Location	Restriction
Fawcett Street	No Entry to cars or motorcycles. Loading for wagons only. All Days all Hours
Durham Road, Mayfair Buildings	A690 Cycle Lane
Southwick Green	No Right Turn
St Marys Way	Yellow Box Junction

Consultation Responses

The council have undertaken a six-week consultation on four proposed sites for the new measures this consultation has now closed and the results of the consultation for each location are detailed below.

While each scheme received a unique range of responses, reflecting local views and requirements, themes that appeared repeatedly are summarised below based on the responses for each location.

Fawcett Street, City Centre

No Entry to cars or motorcycles. Access for Taxis and Loading for wagons only. All days all hours

Vehicles are using the area as a through road, despite restrictions being in place contraventions are still occurring. There are also road safety concerns for pedestrians and an impact on bus timetables.



In total there were 49 responses for this location.

In favour of the scheme at this location	69% (34)
Against the scheme in this location	8% (4)
General comments (not for or against)	23% (11)

Summary of comments:

In favour

- Support the introduction of this measure to help improve provision and reliability for bus services in the City Centre.
- Totally agree /fully support the scheme
- Makes good sense in a highly pedestrianised area
- Support more needs to be done about the amount of traffic ignoring the road restrictions, driving far too fast and endangering pedestrian's safety in this area
- Businesses need to be able to service their premises and not be stopped by indiscriminate parking
- This is a problem hot spot and needs to be enforced

Against

- Do not agree with enforcement
- Do not Implement
- Against introducing no traffic areas.

Durham Road, Mayfair buildings area cycle lane

Parking and waiting in the cycle lane and footpath block the path for cyclists and pedestrians resulting in pedestrians and cyclists having to move on to a very busy road to avoid parked vehicles causing a serious road safety issue.

Various approaches have been used to address this issue for example parking enforcement, police involvement and an amendment to the layout however this has not resolved the issue.



In total there were 51 responses for this location

In favour of the scheme at this location	65% (33)
Against the scheme in this location	4% (2)
General comments (not for or against)	31% (9)

Summary of comments:

In favour

- Parking has been a persistent issue at this location, any action that penalises inconsiderate parking without care for other road or cycle lane users will be very welcome.
- Agree with the proposal in this location in an attempt to reduce inconsiderate and illegal parking which has a negative impact on other road users and pedestrians.
- It is essential to implement these proposals as vehicles are blatantly ignoring the measures in place, preventing access to the very good cycle paths recently installed.
- Cyclists and scooter users should feel safe in cycle lanes.
- Supportive/agree with proposal

Against

- No local authority enforcement should be allowed
- Do not Implement
- Current enforcement ineffective don't think a camera will change that

Southwick Green – No right turn

Contraventions of the no right turn are causing traffic flow and bus movement congestion on Southwick Road, which is a major route, this is creating road safety issues for pedestrians and motorists and also impacting on public transport.



In total there were 36 responses for this location

In favour of the scheme at this location	69% (25)
Against the scheme in this location	6% (2)
General comments (not for or against)	25% (9)

Summary of comments:

In favour

- Abused on a daily basis ignored by motorists
- Will help improve provision and reliability for bus services
- Support/agree with this proposal
- Will improve issues for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair users

Against

- Should be enforced by Police not the council
- No local authority enforcement should be allowed
- Current enforcement ineffective don't think a camera will change that

St Marys Boulevard – yellow box junction

Vehicles blocking the yellow box junction is causing congestion and impacting on traffic movement on the road network. This also causes road safety issues for pedestrians and motorists.



In total there were 48 responses for this location

In favour of the scheme at this location	56% (27)
Against the scheme in this location	12% (6)
General comments not for or against	32% (15)

Summary of comments:

In favour

- Abused on a daily basis any improvement will be welcomed
- Will help improve provision and reliability for bus services
- Support/agree with this proposal
- Will improve congestion and traffic flow in this area
- Will improve issues for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair users

Against

- No local authority enforcement should be allowed
- Current enforcement ineffective don't think a camera will change that
- Do not implement

Further comments included;

- Please ensure there is ample signage
- Please ensure the new restrictions are communicated prior to enforcement commencing
- Camera Enforcement is badly needed
- Drivers need to be aware that these enforcements are law and enforcement is the only way forward to make our roads safer for all concerned
- It's a start. It needs rolling out across the city. But the biggest menace is unlicensed motorbikes and electric bikes that have been modified
- As long it is not a money maker process for the council and the schemes are for road safety

New locations

The legislation specifically identifies which restrictions can be included as part of Moving Traffic Enforcement which restricts what the council could enforce.

[Annex A: traffic signs subject to moving traffic enforcement \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

As part of the consultation the council also asked for suggestions on locations where people would like to see additional sites/restrictions to be considered moving forward.

Locations that were suggested and could be considered as part of the Moving Traffic legislation (link above) are listed below:

Suggested locations were:

- Newbottle Street, Houghton – one way street
- Roker Avenue – bus gate/lane
- Borough Road - bus gate/lane and no car lane
- John Street – no left turn
- Holmeside – cycle lane
- Durham Road – no car lanes

- Stoney Lane, Southwick – bus lane
- A183, A1231 and Green Terrace – yellow box junction can become blocked during peak times resulting in traffic building up along Chester Road
- Donwell, Washington – bus link near George Washington Primary School

If you have any queries about this survey/consultation please contact the City Council's Parking Services team by emailing parking@sunderland.gov.uk.