

NEWS RELEASE

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Revised plans for Duke Street revealed

The council has revised its plans for traffic management on Duke Street following discussions with a number of local businesses.

Whilst the businesses supported the one-way traffic system and 20mph speed limit, which are both in place on a temporary basis, concerns were raised about safety, the location of the loading bays and the number of on-street parking bays.

Officers have revised the scheme to meet as many of the business needs as possible by relocating the loading and parking facilities at the western end of Duke Street, reviewing the design of the Larchfield junction and including an extra traffic calming feature at Outran Street junction to reinforce the 20mph speed limit.

The council is now contacting businesses in Duke Street and residents in the Outram Street area to explain the proposals in more detail.

The new design also includes the closure of the south end of Outram Street to vehicles and the council is keen to hear the views of residents in the area.

Councillor Andy Keir, cabinet member for local services said: "We have listened to what businesses and residents have said and will continue to do so. Duke Street is a vibrant street with a diverse range of shops and services and we want to create a scheme that supports local businesses, as well as local residents and others who use the route to travel to and from the town centre.

"We are committed to delivering a high quality walking and cycling route between West Park and the town centre and have secured the necessary funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

"Following ongoing dialogue between officers and local people I am confident that we can reach a consensus and start construction later this year."

Details of the revised scheme are available on the council website.

Contact Darlington Borough Council's Communications Unit on 01325 406056 or email: <u>communications@darlington.gov.uk</u>

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