

EQIA Submission – ID Number Section A

EQIA Title

Northdown Road - Margate

Responsible Officer

Richard Heaps - GT TRA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Road Safety and Active Travel

Responsible Head of Service

Tim Read - GT TRA

Responsible Director

Philip Lightowler - GT TRA

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing to make some changes to Northdown Road to reduce the number of personal injuries occurring – particularly to pedestrians – through road traffic collisions.

During the past ten years, up until March 2021, there were 49 collisions reported to the police where a pedestrian was injured. We have already made improvements for pedestrian safety along Northdown Road during this time, but the collision rate remains high. A recent study of the road and previous crashes along it identified the following issues:

- The footpath on the southern side of the road is in shade for much of the day, making any pedestrians waiting to cross less visible to drivers.
- The road is straight, which may encourage drivers to travel at a higher speed.
- Some pedestrian crossing points are in front of bus stops, so drivers passing a bus at the stop may not see a pedestrian stepping out until they are out in the road.
- There are many pedestrian crossing points (informal dropped kerbs and zebra crossings), often very close together.
- Two of the zebra crossings incorporate centre islands, and some crashes seemed to have occurred when a pedestrian has crossed to the centre island, and then been struck on the second part of the crossing. There may be uncertainty between pedestrians and drivers whether to treat such crossings as one or two separate movements.
- Buses stopping near the junction with Godwin Road cause conflict between vehicles overtaking the

bus, and vehicles turning right out of Godwin Road.

In response to these concerns, we are proposing the following changes in seven locations along Northdown Road:

- Changes in waiting restrictions resulting in no overall losses of spaces.
- Localised widening of footways to facilitate bus access and improve sightlines for pedestrians and drivers.
- Installation of raised bus 'boarder' kerbs.
- Relocation of one bus stop
- Realignment of junction with Edgar Road
- Bollards to prevent parking in some areas where the footway would be widened
- Widening of footways to remove central islands and reduce the crossing widths at two zebra crossings
- Removing crossing points at bus stops to improve road safety
- Extended pedestrian guard railing

The scheme would deliver positive impacts by:

- improving road safety for all road users
- improving facilities for bus users

This is a Highway scheme that primarily seeks to improve road safety in Northdown Road in the vicinity of the shops, making it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross the road by widening the footway, improving sightlines and reducing crossing widths. There will be improvements for bus passengers by the installation of bus boarder kerbs, and kerb realignment to enable buses to pull up parallel to the kerb. Some junction improvements will be made to improve sightlines for drivers exiting side roads. Changes to waiting restrictions will result in no overall loss of spaces in the locality.

On the basis of the above, it is considered that there will be a low or no negative impact on protected groups, and a positive impact for all protected groups due to improvements in highway safety.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Local residents,
Local businesses
County Members
Local Councillors
Emergency Services (Police, fire, ambulance)
District Council
Residents' Associations
Freight Transport Association
Road Haulage Association
Taxi companies

Bus companies Other groups representing protected characteristics
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients No
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
Age / Disability / Pregnancy & Maternity / Carers - improved facilities for bus passengers such as raised boarder kerbs will make is easier for less mobile passengers to board and alight from the bus. Wider footways and reduced crossing distance will make it easier to cross the road at two of the zebra crossings and at Edgar Road. Inappropriate pedestrian crossing points will be removed at bus stops to guide pedestrians towards safer places to cross the road with improved sightlines.
Sex - None Gender identity - None Race - None Religion / belief - None Sexual orientation - None Marriage / civil partnership - None
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19.Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Age
Reduction in car parking spaces in Northdown Road could mean that people visiting the shops by car may need to walk further as they may be unable to park on Northdown Road itself. This could affect older and therefore potentially more infirm members of the public.
Mitigating Actions for Age
There will be no overall loss of car parking spaces so potential impact will be minimal. All identified additional spaces are on Northdown Road itself or in the immediate vicinity so any extra distance will be minimal and could be a shorter distance than they might otherwise have been walking.
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Richard Heaps
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
Yes

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Reduction in car parking spaces in Northdown Road could mean that people visiting the shops by car may need to walk further as they may be unable to park on Northdown Road itself. This could affect those members of the public who consider themselves disabled. There are no proposals to remove or relocate existing disabled parking spaces.
Mitigating actions for Disability
There will be no overall loss of car parking spaces so potential impact will be minimal. All identified additional spaces are on Northdown Road itself or in the immediate vicinity so any extra distance will be minimal and could be a shorter distance than they might otherwise have been walking.
Responsible Officer for Disability
Richard Heaps
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Completed
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No. Note: If Question 23a is "No", Questions 23b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Race
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Completed

25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Yes - Add details of the negative impacts and mitigations.
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Reduction in car parking spaces in Northdown Road could mean that people visiting the shops by car may need to walk further as they may be unable to park on Northdown Road itself. This could affect members of the public who are pregnant or who have babies and/or young children.
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
There will be no overall loss of car parking spaces so potential impact will be minimal. All identified additional spaces are on Northdown Road itself or in the immediate vicinity so any extra distance will be minimal and could be a shorter distance than they might otherwise have been walking.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Richard Heaps
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Yes - Add details of the negative impacts and mitigations.
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Reduction in car parking spaces in Northdown Road could mean that people visiting the shops by car may need to walk further as they may be unable to park on Northdown Road itself. This could affect members of the public who have carer responsibilities.
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
There will be no overall loss of car parking spaces so potential impact will be minimal. All identified additional spaces are on Northdown Road itself or in the immediate vicinity so any extra distance will be minimal and could be a shorter distance than they might otherwise have been walking.
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Richard Heaps