

Street Works Permit Scheme - consultation feedback

Durham County Council.
Neighbourhood Services.
April 2020.

Durham's Street Works Scheme – let's recap

- Durham County Council is going to introduce a statutory single Street Works Permit Scheme.
- This scheme in essence means that in future organisations carrying out street works in County Durham will need to ask permission from us before starting street works.
- Street works can be things like a utility company or the council working on the road in your street.
- Where permission is given we will give the company a permit allowing them to carry out their street works within an agreed time period and to conditions being met.
- Conditions could be related to things like traffic signal arrangements or traffic flow arrangements.

We asked you....

During this consultation we asked your views particularly in relation to your thoughts on the:

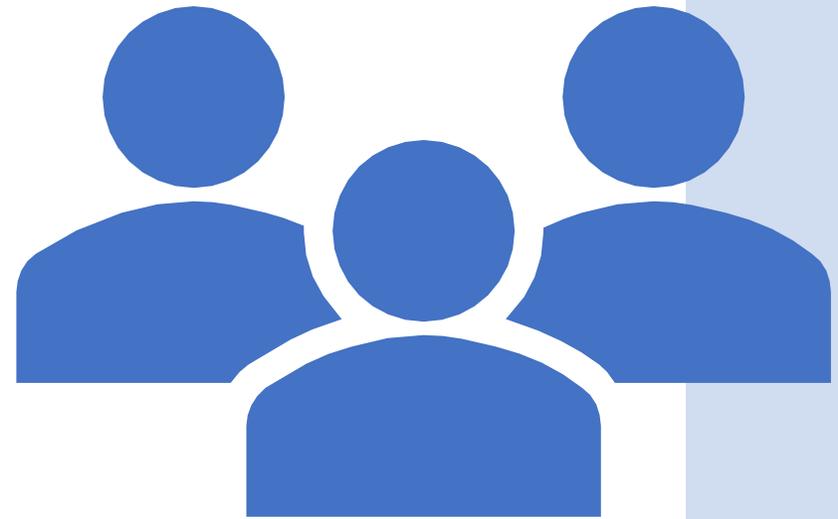
- Suitability of the scheme proposed in relation to the needs of residents and road users;
- Suitability of the scheme in relation to the supporting legislation outlined;
- Clarity regarding the conditions that may be applied to the permit;
- Clarity regarding the penalties that may be applied for not applying for a permit and/or not following the permit conditions; and

We also wanted to know if you had any suggestions for improving the scheme.

Responses

- ✓ 29 respondents provided answers to our questionnaire.
- ✓ 7 respondents were County Durham residents.
- ✓ 3 respondents were individuals who work for an organisation affected by the scheme.
- ✓ 6 respondents were responding collectively on behalf of an organisation affected by the scheme.
- ✓ 63 collaborative consultation responses from 11 organisations were received

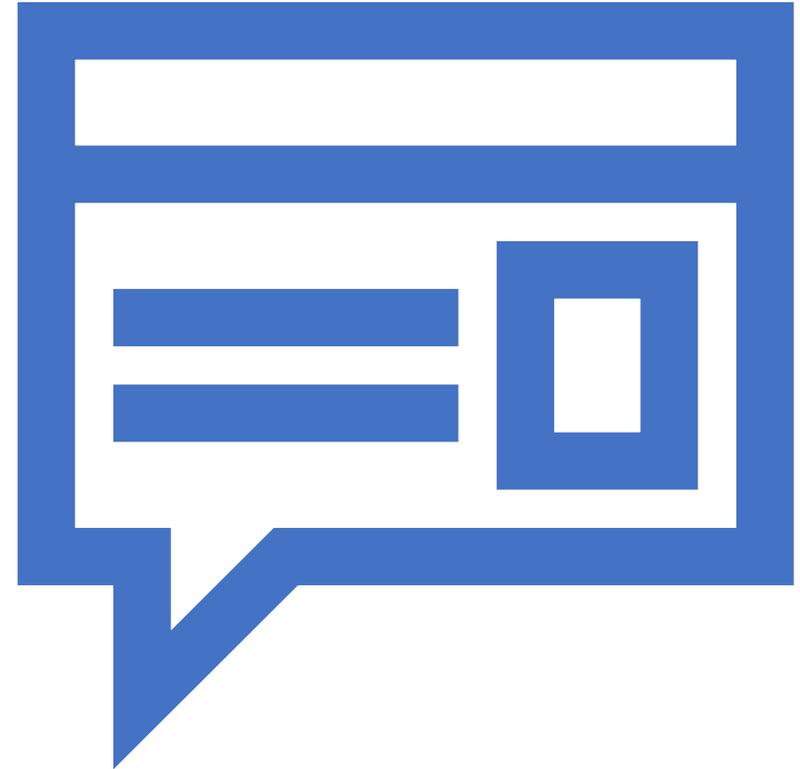
Collaborative responses were received where the same respondent gave the same response to some or all the local authorities that we have been working alongside to introduce this scheme.



You Said...

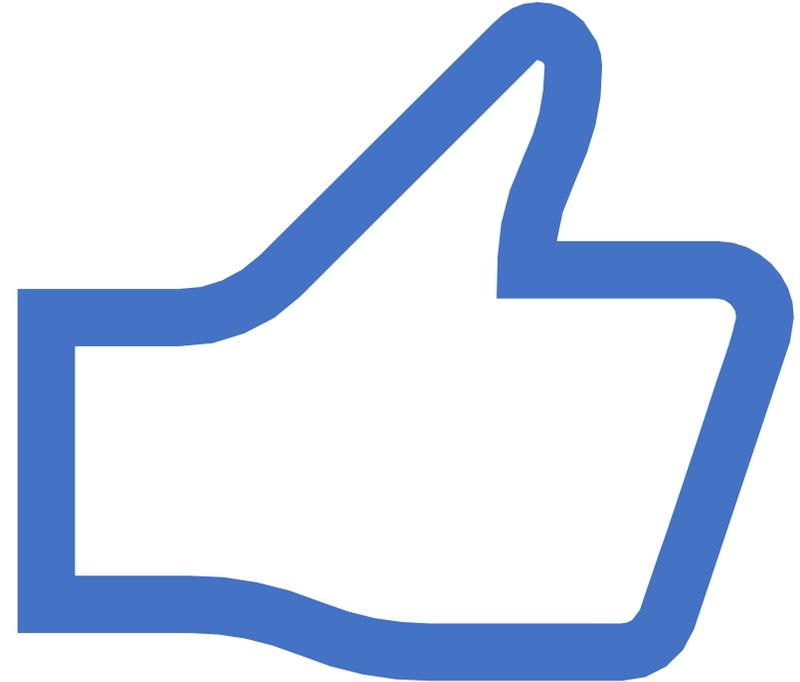
Feedback received from County Durham residents, utility companies, public sector services, a policy advisory organisation and a landowner can be summarised as follows:

- We need to slightly re-word some specific words and or sections for clarification, better understanding for the reader as well as to make the scheme correct into the future;
- We need to make provision for regular review meetings between us and organisations to discuss lessons learned, share best practice and develop working relationships; and
- We need to make a stronger process to deal with requests from organisations for extensions and /or a changes to the permit conditions.



We Did...

- We have read through all the responses we received between 7 August and 7 November 2019.
- Not only have we read through these responses within our own service but we have also read these responses alongside other local authorities who are introducing a street works scheme in their areas.
- We have worked jointly in this way so that we can fully consider all the issues involved in bringing in this scheme and so that we can make the best decisions in a clear, transparent and consistent way.
- As a result 23 changes to the permit scheme were made as a result of feedback to produce the final permit scheme specifically for County Durham.



Next Steps

- The final permit scheme was presented to and agreed at Cabinet on 15 January 2020.
- We are currently writing to organisations, as well as other interested parties such as the Durham Constabulary and housing organisations to tell them about the outcome of the consultation and give them a copy of the permit scheme.
- We are putting a team together to manage and operate the scheme when it comes into effective.
- We will give 28 days notice in writing regarding the start date of the scheme to all effected stakeholders.



Thank you to everyone
who took part in this
consultation

