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Roger Cornwell
Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
The Miners' Hall
Redhills
Durham
DH1 4PB

18th December 2017

Response to the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Dear Mr. Conwell,

Durham BID has actively circulated and encouraged businesses to consider the proposals made in the Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum's proposed Plan, making comment where appropriate. Some businesses have asked the BID to comment on their behalf and summary of the comments is to follow. Naturally I would be grateful if you would consider these in your consultation process.

There is concern that proposed cycle routes though the City would impinge on the safety of the City user in areas which are [predominantly] pedestrianised. These pedestrianised areas are currently safe environments in which City users can make use of all businesses within the City. A shared space for cyclists and pedestrians in Durham would likely create cycle to work routes that benefit the cyclist alone as they use the City centre as a short cut to avoid main highway routes.

Whilst all parties agree that there should be a balanced approach to sustainable transport, the City centre should not be seen as an area where cycle routes carve up established safe environments. Instead, cycle routes should follow existing live highways with cycle stores included in the existing provision of car parks with an increase in the provision of electric car charging stations. This will create a level playing field upon which all city users can enjoy the City centre safely while designated areas of vehicular parking – motorised or peddled – provide easy access to the City. Designated spaces for cycle parking in the City centre should be discouraged as this would create additional clutter in the City centre. There would also be the risk of *cycle creep* where cyclists would dismount outside of a business and temporarily park their cycle against any available wall, window or piece of street furniture. This would provide an unacceptable additional hazard to the City user as well as block access to a business.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Deathe
Business Engagement Manager