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<b>Project:</b>	<b>Greenhead College</b>	<b>Project No:</b>	<b>40025</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2025/91308 Section 73 Highways Consultation Response</b>	<b>Document Ref:</b>	<b>GRHDC-FCL-GEN-FS-TN-X-001</b>
<b>Originator:</b>	<b>Kerrie Norman (Flinders Chase)</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18/08/2025</b>

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## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1** This technical note provides further detail to the consultee responses submitted in relation to application reference 2025/91308.
- 1.2** Section 2.0 responds directly to queries regarding the implementation of the measures in the Travel Plan submitted with the original planning application (planning reference 2021/93624). It also clarifies the additional measures in the latest College Travel Plan (2024) that was submitted with this application.
- 1.3** Section 3.0 responds to issues raised by the Highway Authority in their consultee response dated 10/07/2025. Their consultee response raises concerns based on staff car parking provision. This Technical Note provides additional factual information with regards to staff car parking, which is all accommodated in secure off-street car parks.
- 1.4** Section 4.0 responds to some of the issues raised in the consultee response from Councillor Pattison, which was also submitted on behalf of Councillor Ullah and Councillor Sokhal, and dated 17/06/2025. This response only covers issues relating to Planning Condition 37 (highways safety) and not to other issues raised in the correspondence.

## **2.0 College Travel Plan**

- 2.1** Travel Plans are not static documents and Greenhead College invests considerable resources in transport policy, travel assistance measures and infrastructure improvements. This is to support students and staff to attend college safely, cheaply, reliably and sustainably.
- 2.2** College Governors are directly involved in decisions to improve transport measures for staff and students. The College Leadership Team regularly review transport issues and implement improvements that further enhance the measures in the College Travel Plan.

- 2.3** An updated College Travel Plan was submitted with application 2025/91308. This built upon the College Travel Plan submitted with original planning application reference 2021/93624.
- 2.4** We confirm that all measures in the Travel Plan submitted with planning reference 2021/93624, were implemented. The original development has not yet fully completed, but this is imminent with the final stage of the development on track to complete before the start of the new academic year.
- 2.5** The covered cycle parking has been in place since October 2023 and is well used. The main staff car park has similarly been in place and open since 2023 and contains many EV chargers.
- 2.6** The College assigned the role of their Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC) to a senior member of staff, Sarah Walters (Director of Estates, Operations and IT). Sarah has an active role in all transport, car parking and travel related matters. She has senior delegated authority to implement improvements and a direct link to the College Principal.
- 2.7** The updated College Travel Plan, submitted with the Section 73 application in 2025, contains more ambitious targets for improving travel by sustainable modes. These measures are tailored to Greenhead College but informed by measures that have been successful at other similar sixth form and general further education colleges with similar contexts.
- 2.8** Table 1 below summarises the measures included in the originally submitted College Travel Plan, along with an update on progress and implementation.

	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Comment/Evidence</b>
1	Information to students on safe walking routes	Fully implemented and evidenced through information provided to students at enrolment, on the student platform and in tutorials
2	Promotion of health and wellbeing benefits of walking and walking initiatives	Fully implemented and evidenced through information provided to students on the student platform and in tutorials
3	Covered and secure cycle parking	Fully implemented and evidenced on site
4	Lockers and changing facilities	Fully implemented and evidenced on site. Will be enhanced in Sept 2025 when new additional changing rooms are completed and operational.
5	Promotion of cycle initiatives (e.g. maintenance, groups, etc.)	Implemented and ongoing. Evidenced through initiatives advertised through student platform and enrichment offer.
6	Monitoring cycle space usage and feedback from users	Fully implemented and evidenced through regular data collection by the TPC.

7	Cycle to work scheme	Fully implemented and staff have purchased cycles through the scheme
8	Public transport information provided to all students (including pass applications) at enrolment and information to college visitors	Fully implemented and evidenced through enrolment packs, college newsletters, social media and student platform.
9	Liaison with local authority and passenger transport authority on costs, routes and timetables	Fully implemented and ongoing. Evidenced through ongoing communication and meeting records with the TPC. Two meetings held with the SRO for the TransPennine to ensure students have appropriate access to public transport during the disruption to rail services to/from Huddersfield Station.
10	Clear displays of transport information	Fully implemented and ongoing. Evidenced through the student platform, college noticeboards and social media.
11	No on-site parking allowed for students	Fully implemented and evidenced through operation of car parking permit system and daily patrols by site staff.
12	Use of college mini-bus or sustainable transport options for trips	Fully implemented and evidenced through trip documentation and mini-bus usage records.
13	Car sharing measures promoted to staff (e.g. car share parking spaces)	Implemented and ongoing. Evidenced through staff communication records and policies.
14	Staff permit parking and regular checks	Fully implemented and evidenced through the records of the externally engaged parking management company. All staff car parking sites are now monitored with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to ensure all vehicles are staff or authorised vehicles.

*Table 1: Progress Summary of Measures in 2021 College Travel Plan*

**2.9** The College Travel Plan was fully updated in 2024, which included new staff and student travel surveys. The updated and comprehensive travel plan travel plan was submitted with the Section 73 application.

**2.10** The most recent travel surveys show significant reductions in the number of students driving their own car to college. This reduced from 9% in the 2019 survey (the most comparable survey prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) to 5% in 2024. This evidences the success of the package of travel planning measures that have been implemented in full.

**2.11** The number of students driving to college fluctuates throughout the year as more students pass their test, but the percentage of car drivers is very low when compared to other sixth forms, other FE providers and universities.

**2.12** Any destination that attracts large numbers of people such as a college, university, medical facility, retail destination, commercial premises or leisure facility will generate some vehicle trips and parking demand. Despite the low percentage of student car drivers to Greenhead College, the Senior Leadership Team remains committed to additional measures that increase use of sustainable transport.

**2.13** All the measures in the 2021 Travel Plan have been retained and will continue to be implemented in full. The additional measures set out in the 2024 Travel Plan and current progress is set out in Table 2 below.

	<b>Additional Measure</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Feasibility review of inclusion of e-bike charging facilities in secure cycle parking area	Review being undertaken in Autumn 2025
2	Provide separately designated staff cycle parking facilities	Already implemented with staff having access to a staff only facility, in addition to the main cycle parking facility also accessed by students.
3	Provision of a drying room facility for cyclists and runners	To be reviewed and implemented in Autumn 2025 once new additional changing rooms are fully operational.
4	Schedule regular bike maintenance sessions for staff and students, as part of student support and enrichment offer	To be reviewed and implemented in Autumn 2025
5	Lobby Kirklees Council regarding inclusion of LTN 1/20 compliant active travel improvements in their LCWIP and future capital plans for the area	Underway and information provided by Kirklees Council Highways Officers regarding improvements to Castle Gate and Trinity Street junction. Further consultations planned.
6	Participate in National Walking Month with additional walking and wheeling activities. Involve the running club and the Youth Culture and Skateboarding club.	Programme of activities to be developed for implementation in May 2026 (the next walking month).
7	Establish a dedicated section of the college website with links to discounted ticketing options and real time information on public transport.	To be reviewed and implemented in Autumn 2025
8	Develop and implement new Electric Vehicle charging policy and booking system, in conjunction with car sharing spaces.	To be reviewed and implemented in Autumn 2025
9	Investigate feasibility of new access-controlled gate to the east of the staff car park for staff to use out of hours	To be reviewed in Spring/Summer 2026
10	Arrange joint promotion of Couch to 5K programme for staff, in conjunction with PE staff and the running club	Already implemented with a session run in Summer 2025. A further enrichment session is planned for Autumn 2025.

11	Review potential salary sacrifice schemes for discounted public transport tickets	To be reviewed in Autumn 2025
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Table 2: Additional Measures in 2024 Travel Plan

**3.0 Staff Car Parking**

- 3.1** The consultee response from Highways Officers dated 10/07/2025 indicates that they object to the removal of Planning Condition 37. This appears to be based on a view that there is “...there is likely to be no or very little additional off-street parking facilities available at the college”.
- 3.2** Highways Development Management may not have been aware that in 2023 Greenhead College entered into a 10-year lease with Kirklees Council for a car parking site at Land on the East Side of Park Avenue.
- 3.3** The Park Avenue car parking facility provides secure parking for 36 staff vehicles. It is camera controlled, and the site has been significantly invested in and improved by the college.
- 3.4** The college has 122 secure car parking spaces on the west side of their main site, which are for staff only and are accessed from Greenhead Road. The college also has a second on-site car park with 24 spaces for staff and visitors, which is accessed also accessed from Greenhead Road. The college car parks are monitored by a parking management company with automatic number plate recognition to ensure no unauthorised parking.
- 3.5** Across the both on-site staff car parks and the secure, leased car parking site, the college has a total of 182 spaces available to staff. This provides for all their car parking needs with no overspill onto surrounding highways.
- 3.6** In addition, Greenhead College has a policy that if any staff member cannot access a college car parking space in the on or off-site staff car parks on any college day, the college reimburses staff members to park in the nearest public car parks at Springwood or the Masonic Hall.
- 3.7** College records show that any overspill claims for staff parking on nearby public car parks are rare and limited to occasional days.
- 3.8** The current application to remove Planning Condition 37 does not relate to the development of additional space and will only allow the college to use their existing space more efficiently. This would only result in a modest increase in student numbers of around 5% and only a very minor potential increase in staff numbers.

**3.9** The total number of staff parking spaces across the three parking sites can accommodate the staff parking demand. The college's arrangements for very occasional overspill staff car parking on public car parks (with reimbursement) provide additional mitigation that does not justify the operational restrictions imposed by Planning Condition 37.

**3.10** It does not appear that Highways Development Management were aware of the staff car parking arrangements at the time of their response to this application.

#### **4.0 Parking Demand on Local Streets**

**4.1** A consultee response was received from local councillors, led by Councillor Pattison, and objects to the removal of Planning Condition 37 primarily on highways grounds.

**4.2** Part of the response refers to a view that staff car parking is inadequate as Councillor Pattison regularly passes the site and witnesses the car park to be full.

**4.3** Local Councillors may not be aware of the additional off-site car parking on the council-owned site on Park Avenue that Greenhead College has leased from Kirklees Council and invested considerable capital funding in improving.

**4.4** The staff parking issues are addressed in Section 3.0 and should provide reassurance that there are adequate measures in place such that no staff car parking is taking place or will take place on local highways.

**4.5** There is agreement that the parking on the streets surrounding Greenhead Park and close to the college is not primarily generated by Greenhead College and is busy all year round with commuters and other visitors to the area.

**4.6** Greenhead College acknowledges that there are some students, albeit a very small percentage, who drive to college and that the numbers fluctuate during the academic year. This is no different to every college, university and sixth form provider across Huddersfield and the wider region.

**4.7** However, the percentage of car drivers (approximately 5%) is very low in comparison to other providers, and the college has invested considerably in travel plan measures to reduce these numbers further.

**4.8** As set out in paragraph 3.8, the college is not seeking to expand their buildings with this application and only a minor increase in numbers is planned (approximately 5%) through using their buildings more efficiently.

**4.9** With a 5% increase in total student numbers and maintaining a 5% level of students driving to college, this could result in 7 additional student vehicles. Students will

continue to be reminded about safe and considerate parking behaviour and encouraged to use local public car parks if they have no other means to get to college.

- 4.10** Councillor Pattison also raises a point about pedestrian safety and the number of students walking to and from the main college campus at peak times. As stated earlier in this response, the college has been provided with a design from Kirklees Council highways officers for improvements to nearby junctions, where facilities have long been recognised as inadequate.
- 4.11** The most recent college project also funded a package of highway improvements for footways, dropped crossings and additional parking/waiting restrictions.
- 4.12** Greenhead College is in an exceptionally good location for access to sustainable transport infrastructure and the capacity of the surrounding highways and footways is good. The college is not amongst the largest sixth form colleges nationally, and many operate in similar areas on town/city centre fringes with far higher student numbers.
- 4.13** For example, Cardinal Newman College in Preston has over 4,500 sixth form students and is in a similar area in terms of residential properties and proximity to transport hubs. Most universities also safely operate in similar areas close to town/city centres but have student numbers eight to ten times those at Greenhead College.

## **5.0 Summary**

- 5.1** This note has reviewed the substantive queries raised during the consideration process for the Section 73 application to remove Planning Condition 37.
- 5.2** All measures included in the 2021 College Travel Plan submitted with the original planning application have been implemented and a Travel Plan Coordinator (who is a senior member of staff) is in place.
- 5.3** The most recent College Travel Plan updated in 2024 contains updated travel survey findings, which show a reduction in students driving to college from 9% in 2019 to 5% in 2024.
- 5.4** Additional travel plan measures and more ambitious targets have been adopted, and the college has action plans for implementing these.
- 5.5** Additional information on staff car parking has been provided, which Highway Development Management officers and local Councillors may not have been aware

- of. This includes confirmation of a 10-year lease in place with Kirklees Council for a managed staff car parking facility on Park Road.
- 5.6** The total number of staff car parking spaces is 182 and there are measures in place to ensure that this is adequate for current staff numbers and for any modest increase in staff car parking demand. There is no overspill of staff car parking demand onto local highways.
- 5.7** The percentage of students driving a car to college is very low and it continues to be discouraged by Greenhead College. There is inevitably some student parking on local public highways that do not have parking restrictions, but this is not at a level that is unduly high for a location close to major transport nodes and other larger public facilities.
- 5.8** The Applicant maintains that Planning Condition 37 is unduly restrictive on the fair operation of their existing buildings and has not been applied to similar facilities.
- 5.9** As a specific example, Huddersfield New College had an expansion project approved for a six classroom extension in 2022 (planning reference 2022/62/90265/W). This scheme included additional student numbers to meet growing demand.
- 5.10** Huddersfield New College is located away from major transport nodes (it is served by buses) and has residential streets with unrestricted parking nearby. No planning condition was applied to cap total student and staff numbers. Only one highway-related planning condition was applied (Condition 3) and this required the school travel plan to be updated within three months of occupation. It is unknown whether this condition has been discharged yet.
- 5.11** Other institutions in Huddersfield, such as Kirklees College and the University of Huddersfield, have also developed new buildings over the past five to ten years in similar locations that are close to the Town Centre. It does not appear that planning conditions have been imposed on these schemes that restrict the total numbers of students and staff that they can have on site.
- 5.12** The Applicant seeks to have planning policy applied in a consistent and fair manner and to be able to operate their existing buildings in the most efficient manner. Further detail can be clarified on the measures Greenhead has put in place to ensure highway safety and that sustainable transport is maximised.