What is a Vehicular Crossing?

A Vehicular Crossing is an area of lowered pavement and kerb which is used to give access to vehicles from a road across the footway and onto a driveway or parking area.

If the occupier of any premises adjoining or having access to a Leeds City Council adopted highway mounts the kerbed footpath or grass verge to park a vehicle in or outside their property, a vehicular crossing constructed to Leeds City Council’s specification is required.

It is against the law to drive across a public footpath without an authorised vehicular crossing, as damage will be caused to the footway or services underneath.

In other words, if you want to park your car in your driveway, you cannot drive straight across the kerb, footway and the grass verge into your property. You cannot build a “DIY” ramp using concrete between the kerb and the road or by using wooden planks etc.

A legal vehicular crossing must be constructed to specification.

Will the Council build me a Vehicular Crossing?

Leeds City Council does not undertake construction of vehicular crossings. You must find your own contractor to build the crossing.

If Leeds City Council repair the footway and kerbs in a street as part of the maintenance programme, existing vehicular crossings will be re-instated by the road workers if required.

What do I need to do to get a Vehicular Crossing built?

You need to apply to Leeds City Council Highways Services for permission to get a vehicular crossing built by a contractor of your choice. Highways Services will inspect your site before the crossing is built and after the crossing is built. However, before contacting Highways Services, a bit of preparation will speed things up:

- Make sure you can afford the cost of building a vehicular crossing. A standard vehicular crossing should cost well under £1000.
- If your property is currently council housing stock or is ex council housing stock, you will require confirmation from the local housing office that there are no restrictions attached to the property.
- If your proposed vehicular crossing is accessed from an A, B or C classified road, passes over non highway land or crosses a highway verge more than 1.8 metres wide, you will require approval from the Planning Department on 0113 222 44 09.
- If there are any planning restrictions, preservation orders or conservation orders associated with your properties garden or boundary walls, you must inform the Planning Office of your intended works.
- An approved hard standing has been constructed within the boundary of your property. This should be a minimum of 5 metres deep (distance between the boundary and the building) and a maximum of 5.0 metres wide.
- If there are any street lamps or BT columns etc which may obstruct your proposed crossing, the utility company will move them if possible but you will be charged by the company.
If a tree obstructs your proposed crossing you will need to contact the Leeds City Council Forestry section for further advice on 0113 395 7400.

To begin the process of applying for permission to construct a vehicular crossing, you can ring the Highways Helpline on 0113 222 44 07.

Alternatively, you can write to:

**Leeds City Council**
**Highways & Transportation**
**Selectapost 6**
**Ring Road Middleton**
**Leeds LS10 4AX**

Upon receipt of your initial request, a Highways Inspector for the area of Leeds you live in will book you into a computer database system as an applicant. They will then post you the first stage applicant letter, including a request for a £41.20 administration fee.

Upon receipt of the £41.20 administration fee, the Highways Inspector will visit your property to check the site of your proposed crossing (they will not usually need to see you, they will just park in your street and do a visual inspection).

If there are any problems, the Inspector will contact you to resolve them.

If everything is in order, they will post you the second stage applicant letter, including a technical specification for your contractor to follow when construction of the crossing begins.

It is advisable not to pay a contractor until the Highways Inspector has accepted that the crossing has been built to specification. If it is not to specification, you will have to arrange for remedial works to make the crossing legal. Make sure you tell the Highways Inspector when the crossing is to be built, so they can inspect the work and approve it as legal.