

Report to	Norwich Highways Agency committee 16 March 2017	Item
Report of	Head of city development services	8
Subject	Transport for Norwich – Newmarket Road / Outer Ring Road roundabout upgrade	

Purpose

To seek approval to implement an experimental traffic regulation order to extend the current temporary closure of Leopold Road to help inform the design process for the reconfiguration of this junction

Recommendation

That the committee:

- (1) asks the head of city development services to undertake the necessary statutory processes to implement an experimental traffic regulation order to retain the current temporary closure of Leopold Road; and,
- (2) notes that the consideration of the effectiveness of this experiment will be considered at a future meeting, as part of proposals to reconfigure the junction of Newmarket Road / Daniels Road roundabout.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a safe, clean and low carbon city

Financial implications

There is a budget funded by the Local Growth Fund of £2,000 000, which is for upgrades to this junction, and the Daniels Road roundabout

The cost to implement the experimental order will come from this budget.

Ward/s: Eaton

Cabinet member: Councillor Bremner - Environment and sustainable development

Contact officers

Bruce Bentley, Principal Transportation Planner

01603 212445

brucebentley@norwich.gov.uk

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. Officers are currently undertaking feasibility work into potential improvements to the Newmarket Road / Daniels Road roundabout with a view to increasing capacity, particularly for buses, and to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This scheme is due for consultation later this year and will be constructed over the following 2 years. A location plan is included as appendix 1.
2. It is recognised that the junctions to the immediate east and west of the roundabout are a source of congestion at the roundabout. A separate report on this agenda recommends approving the removal of the traffic signals at the junction of Newmarket Road with Christchurch Road and Lime Tree road as part of the cycle improvements for the inner section of Newmarket road which will remove one bottle neck that affects capacity at the roundabout.
3. On the western arm of Newmarket Road the Eaton Road / Leopold Road junction is the other bottle neck and one option being considered includes the closure of Leopold Road. This work is still ongoing, but initial studies are indicating that pursuing this option would have substantial benefits for traffic flow on Newmarket Road, and significant benefits for pedestrians and cyclists that cannot be achieved if this side road remains open to motorised traffic
4. To minimise disruption whilst the current phase of improvement work is carried out on Newmarket Road, the junction of Leopold Road onto Newmarket Road has been temporarily closed as part of the traffic management measures in place. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this closure has had a very positive impact on the flow of traffic on Newmarket Road and particularly at the Newmarket Road / Daniels Road roundabout. The bus operators, who were originally fearful that the construction works for the cycle way improvements would be very disruptive for buses, have reported that punctuality on the Newmarket Road corridor has actually improved in recent weeks and the closure of Leopold Road is believed to be the main reason for this.
5. Some years ago, proposals were considered to upgrade this junction by banning the right turn from Newmarket Road into Leopold Road, but concerns were raised about adverse effects of traffic on nearby streets. With the current temporary closure in place, officers are not aware that there have been such adverse impacts, and maintaining the closure of Leopold road on an experimental basis will allow for a full assessment of the impacts, and give residents the opportunity to comment on any forthcoming proposals with the knowledge of the impacts local to them
6. Experimental traffic regulation orders are a mechanism for implementing a proposal for a trial period limited to a maximum of 18 months. It allows for a full assessment of the impact of a particular proposal, and a decision as to whether the proposal should be made permanent or not must be made within that 18 month window
7. The committee will be in a position to consider proposals to close the Leopold Road junction to motorised traffic on a permanent basis and upgrade the whole of the junction at a meeting later this year.

Conclusion

8. An experimental order to close the Leopold Road junction to motorised vehicles will allow a full assessment of the effect of this, allowing both local residents and this committee to have a full understanding of the implications when proposals for the junction are consulted on later this year

Integrated impact assessment



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Report author to complete

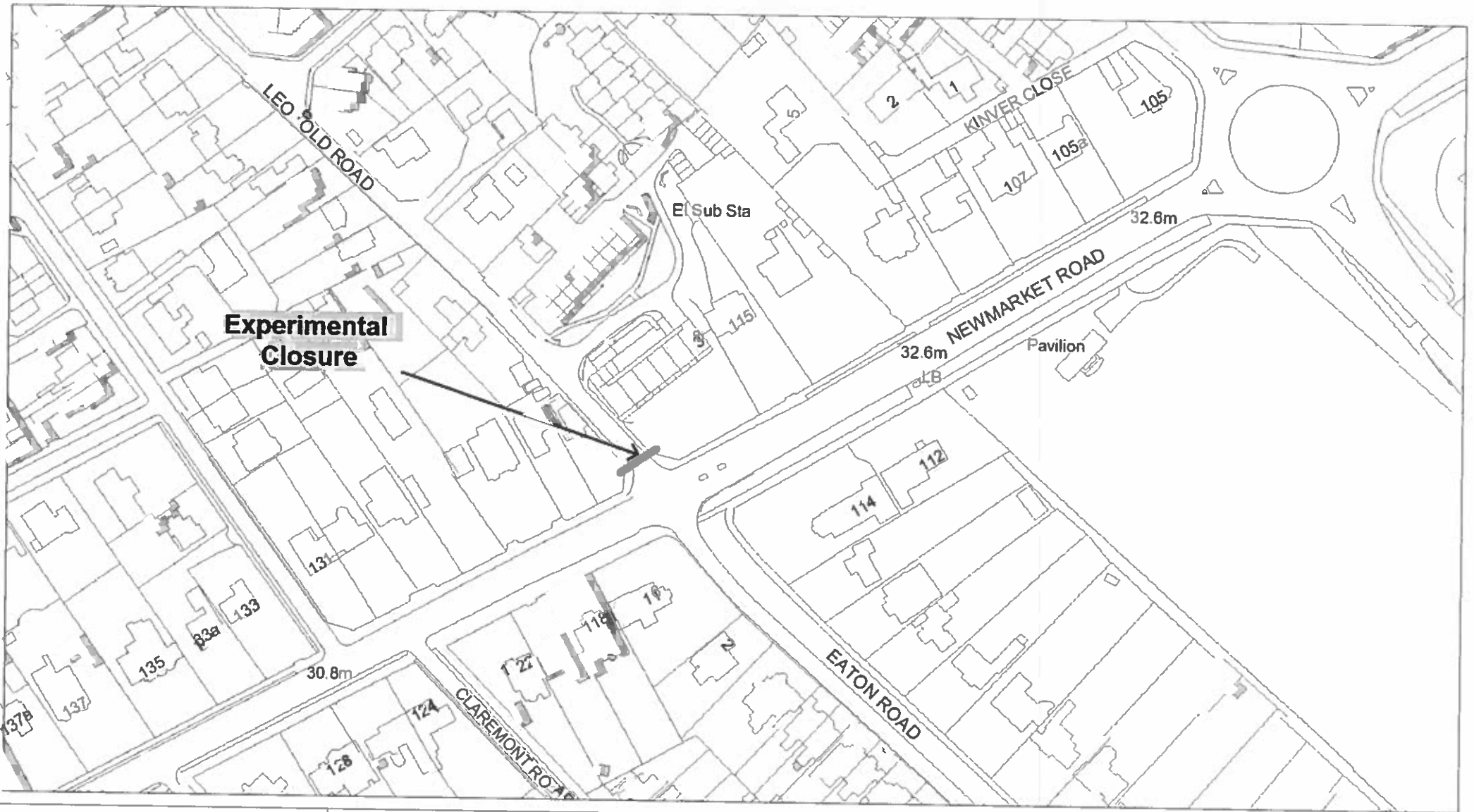
Committee:	Norwich Highways Agency Committee
Committee date:	16 March 2017
Director / Head of service	David Moorcroft/ Andy Watt
Report subject:	Transport for Norwich –CCAG 32; Newmarket Road Outer ring Road upgrade
Date assessed:	15 February 2017
Description:	A report to seek agreement to implement an experimental traffic regulation order to close Leopold Road to motor vehicles

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	improvements to the junction will improve public transport reliability, and pedestrian and cycling facilities
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will improve facilities for cycling, walking and public transport in the longer term
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will improve facilities for cycling, walking and public transport in the longer term

	Impact			
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment
Positive
The proposed expermental TRO will inform improvement to this congested junction
Negative
N/A
Neutral
Issues
N/A



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Leopold Road: Experimental Closure

Appendix 1

SCALE	NTS
DATE	07/03/2017
DRAWING No.	
DRAWN BY	