

Report for Resolution

Report to	Norwich Highways Agency Committee 27 November 2008
Report of	Head of Transportation and Landscape
Subject	Little Bethel Street Highway and Footpath Improvements

Item

6

Purpose

This report is to inform members of the proposed improvement scheme for little Bethel Street, aimed at reducing the impact of large vehicles using the street.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the report

Financial Consequences

This scheme is joint funded to by the Local Transport Plans Capital Improvement and Capital Maintenance budgets to the value of £45,000

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future” and the service plan priority of delivering the Local Transport Plan

Contact Officers

Joanne Deverick, Transportation Manager
Tony Cozens

01603 213430
01603 213469

Background Documents

Norwich Highway Agency Committee Report and Minutes - 10 November 2005, 09 March 2006, 25 May 2006, 14 September 2006, and March 2007

Report

Background

1. Members may recall that in November 2005 this committee considered a report that suggested options for resolving the difficulties caused by large vehicles using Little Bethel Street. There followed several reports to this committee trying to achieve a scheme that was effective and satisfied the concerns of all parties. Those concerns included;
 - the safety of pedestrians when large vehicles over-ran the footpath
 - the damage to adjoining building caused by large vehicles
 - the desire from bus passengers that buses be allowed to continue using the route
 - the need to service the Chapelfield development
 - the problems of enforcement.
 - Eventually in March 2007 it was agreed that to
2. As a result of the discussions the following actions were taken
 - Signs were erected on the ring road advising that Little Bethel Street was unsuitable for long vehicles
 - Satellite navigation companies were inform that Little Bethel Street was unsuitable for HGVs
 - Retailers in the St Stephen's Street, Chapelfield Development, Rampant Horse Street area were asked to advise their deliveries to take the signed service route via Westlegate;
 - First Bus and Konnect were asked to use shorter buses on routes that used Little Bethel Street. However after the services were removed for the duration of the improvement works to St Peters Street, both companies decided to withdraw services from the area.
3. The one remaining action was to investigate whether improvements could be made to the footpaths on Little Bethel Street. Funding for this was secured as part of the 2008/09 Local Transport Plan.

Footpath Improvements

4. Officers have worked with representatives of the local residents in Little Bethel Street to draw up a scheme to improve pedestrian safety. The proposals are shown on the plan attached as appendix 1 and consist of widening the footpath on western side of Little Bethel Street, raising the height of the kerbs on the junction radii to prevent over-running, providing dropped crossing points away from the junction radii and introducing kerb build outs at the junction of Little Bethel Street with Bethel Street.
5. Formal consultation with stakeholders and residents has taken place. The residents are in favour of the scheme and no objections from stakeholders have been received.
6. It is intended that this scheme will be built in January, and the opportunity taken to re-construct the carriageway during the period of the required road closure.

