Report for Resolution

Report to	Norwich Highways Agency Committee 22 March 2012	Item 7
Report of	Head of city development services	1
Subject	Norwich car club expansion proposals	

Purpose

To inform members of the strategy for expanding the car club in Norwich and to seek permission to advertise the TROs associated with a number of new car club bays in the city.

Recommendations

The committee is recommended to:

- (1) note the continued demand for the car club and welcome its' planned extension across Norwich;
- (2) authorise the head of city development and head of law and governance (Norwich City Council) to carry out the necessary statutory procedures to introduce car club bays as detailed in attached plans in appendix 1 and associated changes to waiting restrictions:

	Location	Plan number
1.	Chapel Field East	PL/TR/3329/730/1B
2.	City Road	PL/TR/3329/730/3
3.	Ella Road	PL/TR/3329/730/6
4.	Heigham Street	PL/TR/3329/730/7
5.	Nelson Street	PL/TR/3329/730/4
6.	Surrey Street	PL/TR/3329/730/5
7.	Trafford Road	PL/TR/3329/730/2

Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are funded by allocated developer contributions assigned for sustainable transportation.

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 to implement the Local Transport Plan and Norwich Area Transportation Strategy.

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

None

Background

- The Norfolk car club which operates vehicles in Norwich is supported jointly by Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council. Policy support for the car club is made within the Norfolk Local Transport Plan, the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy and the Norwich City Council Local Plan.
- 2. The car club launched in Norwich in November 2006 and is currently operated by Commonwheels. The car club in Norwich now has a total of 10 vehicles located in the city centre (4 locations), south city (5 locations in the Unthank Road area) and north city (1 location in Marlborough Road).
- 3. Additional vehicles are planned to be installed in 2012 using extant TRO authorisations, these include the following:
 - i) The Avenues (single bay)
 - ii) Christchurch Road (single bay)
 - iii) Patteson Road (single bay)
 - iv) Greyfriars Road (twin bays)
 - v) York Street (existing twin bays with currently 1 vehicle)
 - vi) Gloucester Street. (existing twin bays not currently occupied)
- 4. The car club operator has the ambition for Norwich to become the first city wide low emission fleet to be operated on a not for profit basis in the country. This will necessitate a rolling programme of car club spaces to be implemented across the city over the next 3 years in order to achieve this target.
- 5. Funding for this expansion is anticipated from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and other sources identified by Norfolk County Council. Norwich City Council provides support by identification of S106 funds for TRO, plus signs and lines costs and officer time which is gratis.

Discussion

6. Car clubs have been proven nationally to reduce car ownership in its membership group so ease parking pressures. Several research studies confirmed this; findings by Transport for London in 2007 indicate that a single car club vehicle can directly remove 4 private vehicles and defer purchase of a further 6 vehicles. More recent research for Carplus by the respected Transport Research Laboratory (which included data from the Norwich Car Club) has demonstrated the much greater reward that for every 1 car club vehicle more than twenty private vehicles are either sold, or not purchased, representing a very significant reduction in parking pressure.

- 7. There has been increasing demand for the car club from residents across the city and the car club must expand if it is to become a sustainable operation in the medium to long term. Appendix 2 illustrates where existing car club members are located in relation to existing car club locations.
- 8. The proposed 7 car club bay locations have been identified by the car club operator in discussion with transportation officers and are as follows:
 - i) Chapel Field East (city centre)
 Conversion of motorcycle 5 metre bay; (poorly sited, underused)
 Alternative motorcycle provision is available nearby on Theatre Street
 - ii) City Road (South east city) Conversion of double yellow lines
 - iii) Ella Road (East city) Conversion of double yellow lines
 - iv) Heigham Street (West city)Conversion of double yellow lines
 - v) Nelson Street (West city) Conversion of double yellow lines
 - vi) Surrey Street (city centre)
 Conversion of a single pay and display bay (low usage)
 - vii) Trafford Road (south east city) Conversion of double yellow lines

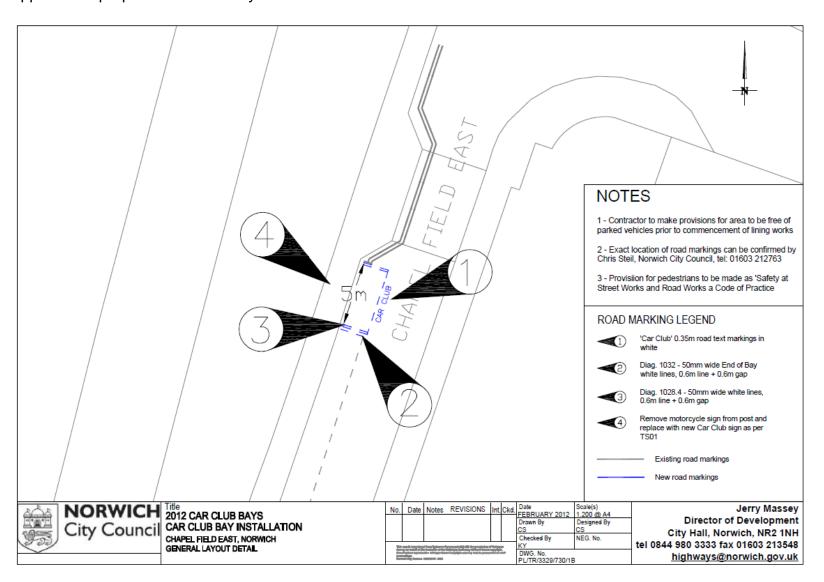
Particular attention has been paid to the selection of bays to ensure the following:

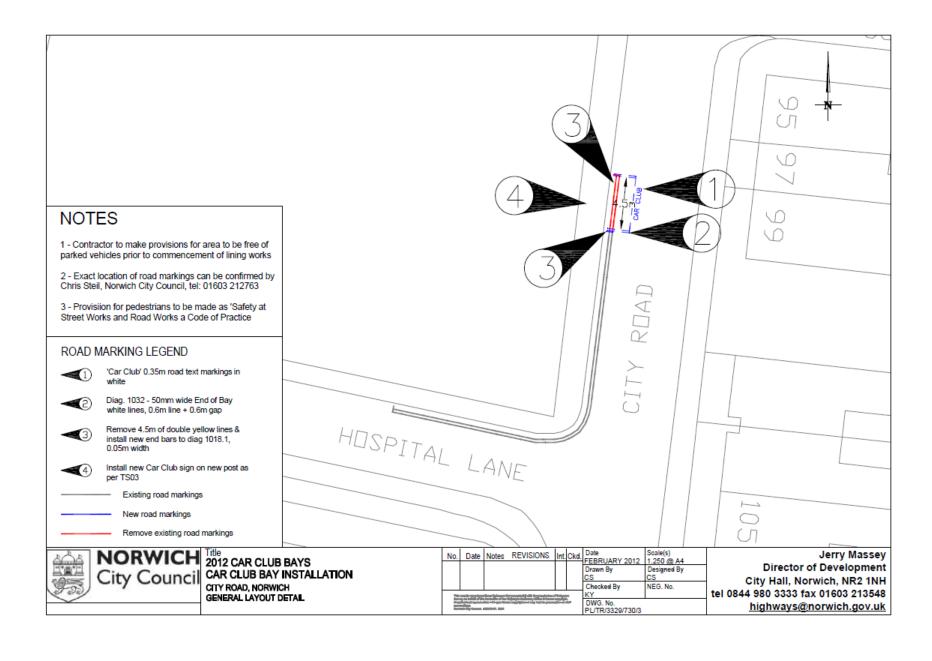
- Local catchment of residential population or local businesses
- High visibility locations to attract potential customers
- Are in safe locations which do not cause hazards to other road users
- Does not result in the loss of resident parking
- Avoids potential conflicts from other parking pressures wherever possible

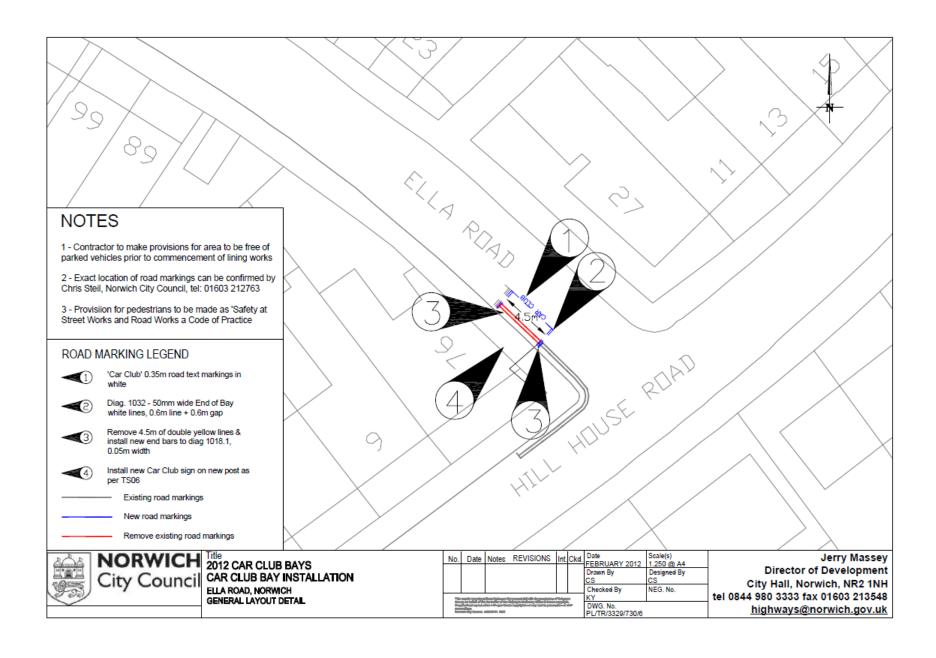
Conclusion

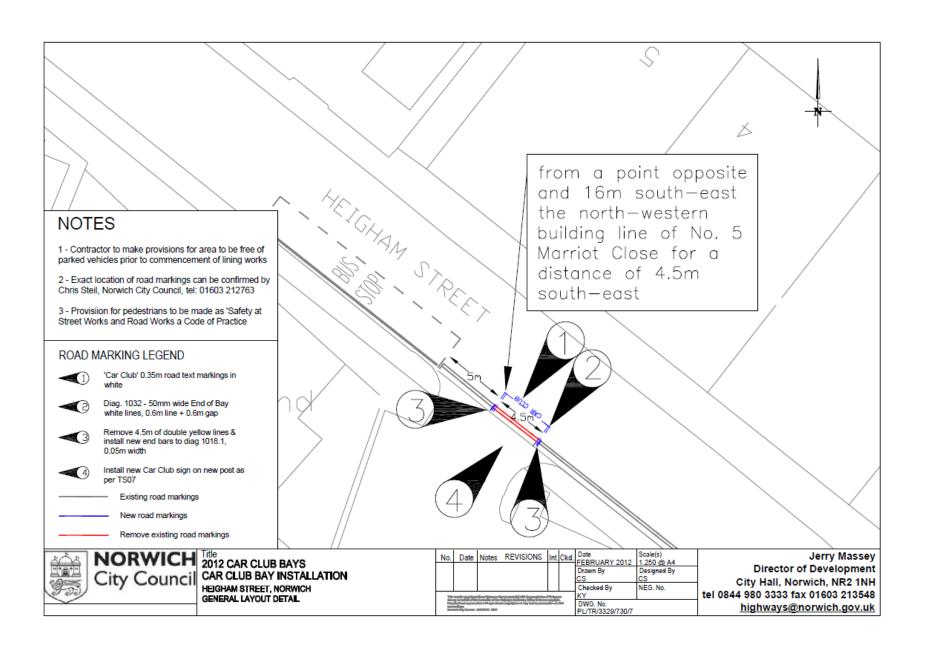
9. The proposed plans for car club expansion accords with local transport policy. The car club operator is confident that there is potential demand for car club vehicles across Norwich in locations which have sufficient population or business density. These can be phased for implementation over a 2 year period to comply with Traffic Regulation Order legal requirements. The car club expansion plans therefore should be considered as a package for the sustained growth in car club provision for the city.

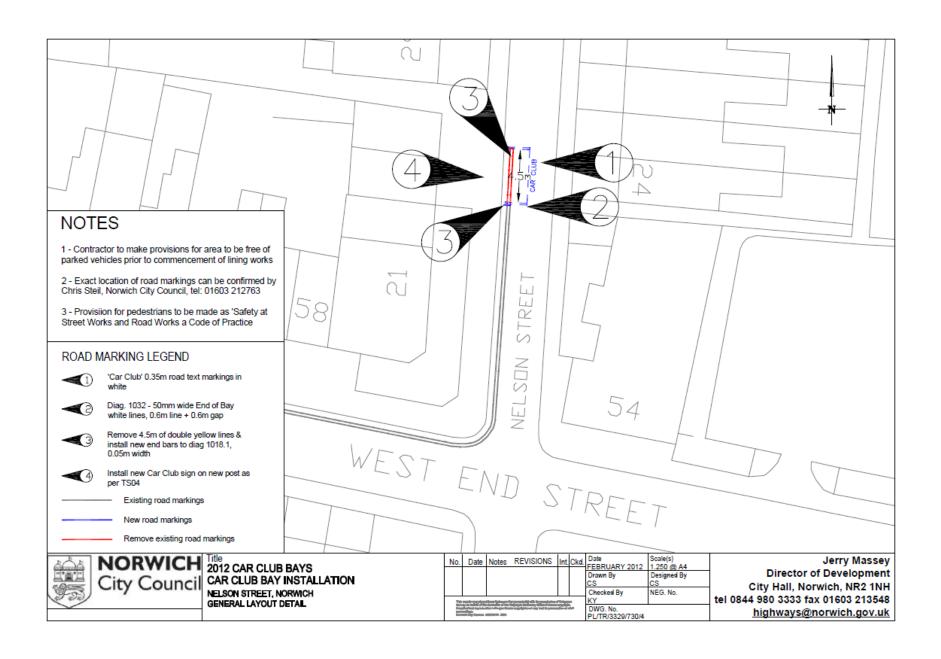
Appendix 1: proposed car club bays

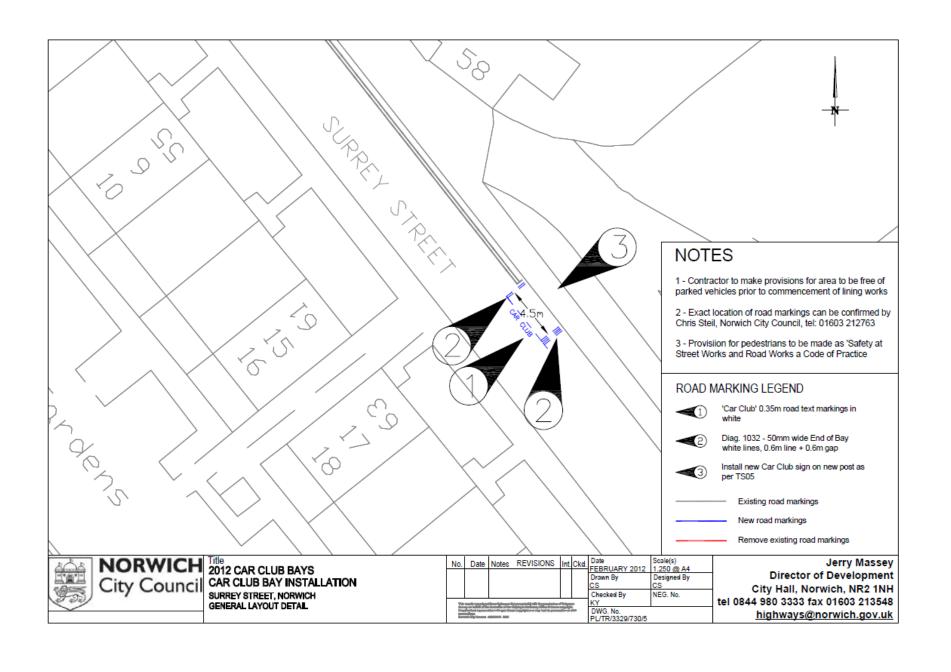












Appendix 2: location of car club members Jan 2012 in relation to existing car club vehicles

