

**Thetford Network Improvement Strategy**

*David Cumming, Interim Team Leader Transport Norfolk County Council*

**Summary**

Norfolk County Council is carrying out a series of market town studies – termed Network Improvement Strategies – to identify the most effective transport improvements to support future planned growth, help address transport issues such as congestion, enhancements to safety and access to public transport, and support the local economy. The agreed programme for the year commencing September 2017 includes Thetford.

A presentation will be given outlining the work. It will provide an opportunity for the Board to assist the study by providing details of any ongoing or recently completed work, and to give views about what the Board considers are the most important issues for the town that the study should aim to address.

**Recommendations**

- (i) The Board is asked to give views about what it considers the most important issues for the town that the study should aim to address.

**1. Introduction**

Many of Norfolk's market towns and larger villages have a considerable amount of planned housing and employment growth identified through the relevant Local Plans. Addressing the transport pressures this growth will bring is vital to facilitate the economic prosperity of these towns and villages and as such planning this ahead of growth allows the county council to respond accordingly.

The suite of market town transport studies will identify the most effective transport improvements to support future planned growth and help address transport issues such as congestion, enhancements to safety and access to public transport. It is intended that the studies will support the economy of the area by helping to prioritise proposed schemes, assist with growth assumptions and influence potential funding opportunities in the future and ultimately facilitate planned housing and employment growth in these towns and villages

Norfolk County Council's Environment, Development and Transport committee (EDT) in September 2017 agreed the current annual programme of market town studies – termed Network Improvement Strategies – of:

- Dereham
- North Walsham
- Swaffham
- Thetford
- Long Stratton.

## 2. Scope of Studies

EDT agreed the scope of the studies. In summary this is as follows:

- Understand current transport problems and issues
- Understand the future situation (growth proposals and their impacts on transport)
- Develop implementation plan.

## 3. Work programme

Working on the studies has started with an assimilation of evidence about the known, existing problems and issues. This is being followed by external workshops to discuss stakeholders' concerns and priorities, and what existing work is already being undertaken. This is the stage that Thetford has currently reached with the Board meeting being the first engagement with local stakeholders.

The next step will be for Norfolk County Council to agree which aspects of the scope to focus resource on and agree this with stakeholders. Technical work will be commissioned and the study completed over the summer. Drafts of the studies will be circulated to stakeholders before the study is finalised and reported back to EDT for adoption. For Thetford, this is anticipated to be during the autumn.

## 5. Contribution to Board Objectives

The activity will contribute to Objective 1 to improve infrastructure and Objective 6 to encourage economic vitality.

## 6. Recommendations

- (i) The Board is asked to give views about what it considers the most important issues for the town that the study should aim to address.

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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## Appendices

### Background Documents

Report to Norfolk County Council Environment Development and Transport Committee 17 March 2017

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