

Thetford Network Improvement Strategy
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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.

A presentation was given to the Board in February outlining the work. Following the Board an external workshop was held with stakeholders to ask what they feel are the current transport issues in Thetford and indicate what they felt were priorities.

Recommendations

- (i) The Board is asked to note progress.

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 that Thetford would be one of the first towns to be studied.

2. Work programme

Work on the studies started with an assimilation of evidence about the known, existing problems and issues, followed by an external workshop to discuss stakeholders' concerns and priorities, and what existing work is already being undertaken.

Norfolk County Council subsequently agreed with stakeholders which aspects of the scope to focus resource on. The following technical work has been commissioned and is still underway:

- Cycle & walking corridor identification and options – identifying key cycle & walking corridors and potential improvements along routes to increase active travel
- Network Pinch Point Assessment – identifying traffic using the network pinch point on Nun’s Bridge Road, how this is likely to change with the addition of extra development and identify measures to alleviate any issues found
- Key Junction Testing – Undertake capacity assessment and review of key junctions in Thetford considering walking and cycling measures and future growth

A draft of the Strategy will be circulated to stakeholders and taken to the Greater Thetford Partnership Board before the study is finalised and reported back to EDT for adoption. For Thetford, this is anticipated to be early next year.

3. Contribution to Board Objectives

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

4. Recommendations

- (i) The Board is asked to note progress.

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
- Report to Norfolk County Council Environment Development and Transport Committee 15 September 2017