

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure

DATE 9 November 2010

DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Guild Street Pedestrian Improvements

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/261

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to advise Members of the pedestrian safety concerns raised by Aberdeen City Centre Association and Grampian Police and the proposed pedestrian improvement schemes on Guild Street and their associated costs. This report also seeks the approval the of Committee to undertake the proposed pedestrian improvement schemes, together with approval of the estimated expenditure and approval for officers to conduct a competitive tendering exercise for the improvement works to be undertaken.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Members:

- a) Agree the implementation of the proposed pedestrian improvement schemes on Guild Street;
- b) Approve the estimated expenditure as detailed in this report;
- c) Instruct officers to conduct a competitive tendering exercise for the improvement works to be undertaken and award a contract to the tenderer submitting the most economically advantageous tender; and
- d) Instruct officers to update this Committee, via regular bulletins, of progress on the implementation.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An estimated total of £60,000 is required to install the proposed pedestrian improvement schemes on Guild Street. Funding of £60,000 has been secured from the NESTRANS Capital Programme for 2010 / 2011 to carry out the improvements.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Pedestrian safety concerns were raised by the Aberdeen City Centre Association and Grampian Police following the increased pedestrian footfall crossing Guild Street after the Union Square Shopping Centre was opened.
- 5.2 Pedestrian surveys were carried out during June 2010 to ascertain the volume of pedestrian movements on Guild Street. The surveys were carried out on a Thursday between 7.30am – 9.30am, 12.00pm – 2.00pm and 4.30pm – 6.30pm and on a Saturday afternoon between 1 pm – 3 pm.
- 5.3 Surveys revealed there was a considerable amount of pedestrian movement along the Guild Street corridor. In total there were over 13,000 pedestrian movements on Thursday and over 7,500 pedestrian movements on Saturday afternoon recorded during the times of the surveys. The largest volumes of pedestrian footfall were recorded at two locations which were:
- The existing pedestrian crossing between the Trinity Mall shopping centre and the access to Aberdeen railway station; and
  - The existing staggered pedestrian crossing on Guild Street at the Market Street junction.
- 5.4 Road safety accident records revealed that over the last three years there were no pedestrian day time accidents on Guild Street. Three pedestrian night time accidents, which were alcohol related, were recorded over the same three year period. It should be noted that since the opening of Union Square there have been no pedestrian accidents recorded.
- 5.5 Discussions and a site visit carried out by officers from NESTRANS and Aberdeen City Council identified a number of pedestrian improvement options for Guild Street. The survey information highlighted the areas where proposed improvements would benefit the majority of pedestrians. Two pedestrian improvement schemes have been identified at the locations stated in paragraph 5.3 above.
- 5.6 Scheme 1 - It is proposed to widen the footway on the northern side of the existing pedestrian crossing between the Trinity Mall shopping centre and Aberdeen railway station. It is also proposed to widen the kerbside extents of the crossing itself. These measures will improve the footway capacity and improve pedestrian comfort when crossing Guild Street.

This scheme, which reduces three lanes into two lanes to the west of Wapping Street junction, will have no impact on the road capacity or traffic flow on this strategic route as only two lanes of traffic travel along this section before splitting into a three lane carriageway on Guild Street Railway Bridge. Preliminary design plans of the proposed scheme are included in Appendix 1 of this report. Detailed design will be carried out if the proposal is approved.

Scheme 2 – It is proposed to increase the width of the existing central reservation for the staggered pedestrian crossing on Guild Street near the Market Street junction on the southern side by approximately one metre. The scheme will improve access to and from the central reservation and pedestrian crossings and improve pedestrian crossing capacity during the green man phase. Preliminary design plans of the proposed scheme are included in Appendix 1 of this report. Detailed design will be carried out if the proposal is approved.

- 5.7 It should be noted that in 2004 a scheme was proposed to carry out improvements on Guild Street which would be financed by the developer of Union Square Shopping Centre. The initial timescale for completing the Union Square project was expected to be completed in 2009.

There were a number of proposals to improve Guild Street as part of the Union Street pedestrianisation project already being considered for implementation by 2010. Therefore the City Council agreed that it was not prudent to carry out the proposed developer funded pedestrian improvements on Guild Street in 2009 then to carry out further changes in 2010, causing further disruptions / delays to pedestrians and motorists.

Whilst a number of improvement measures have since been delivered to support a possible future pedestrianisation scheme, (e.g. Wapping St / Market St / College St improvements), further measures still remain to be completed, such as the Berryden Corridor Improvements.

- 5.8 Should the above proposals be agreed, they will be implemented by the end of this financial year.

## 6. IMPACT

Within the Single Outcome Agreement 2009 14 of the 15 national indicators are directly or indirectly linked to the Local and Regional Transport Strategies (LTS & RTS) both of which recognise the key role transportation plays in ensuring social inclusion and improving quality of life.

The project will contribute to the delivery of the LTS vision and aims to improve our walking routes and facilities throughout Aberdeen and to continue to implement 4 Es measures (Engineering, Enforcement, Encouragement and Education) to improve road safety, in this case the perception of safety as there is no daytime pedestrian related accident record here related to peak pedestrian / vehicle conflict times.

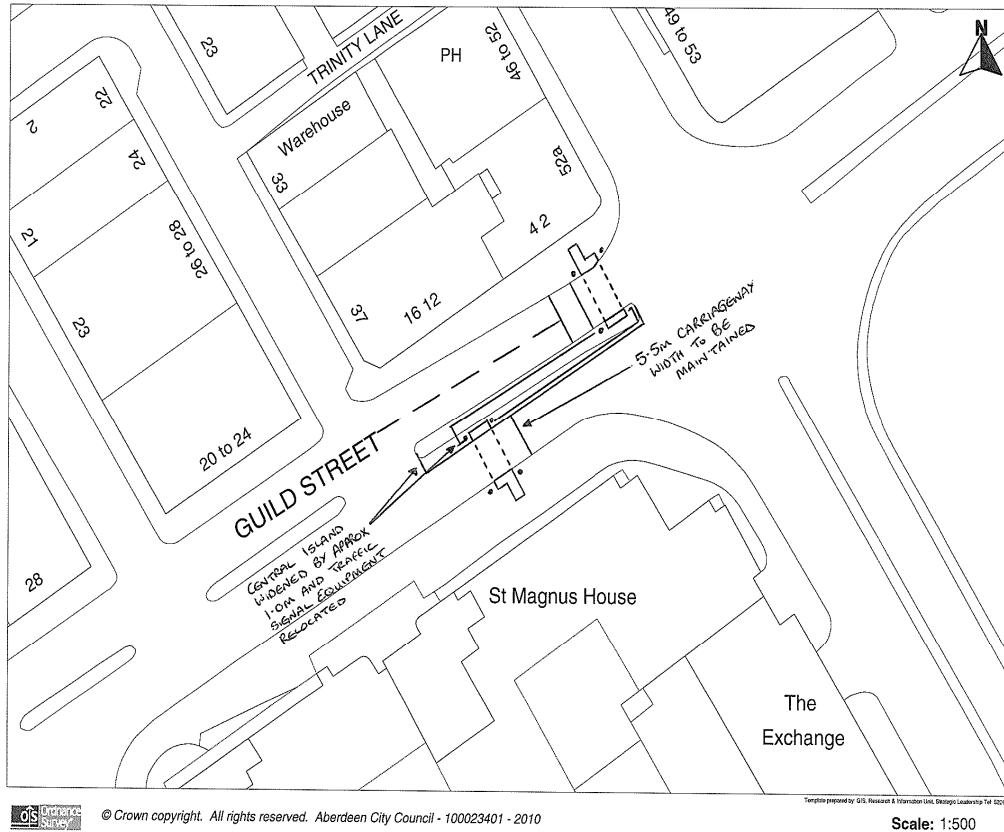
## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

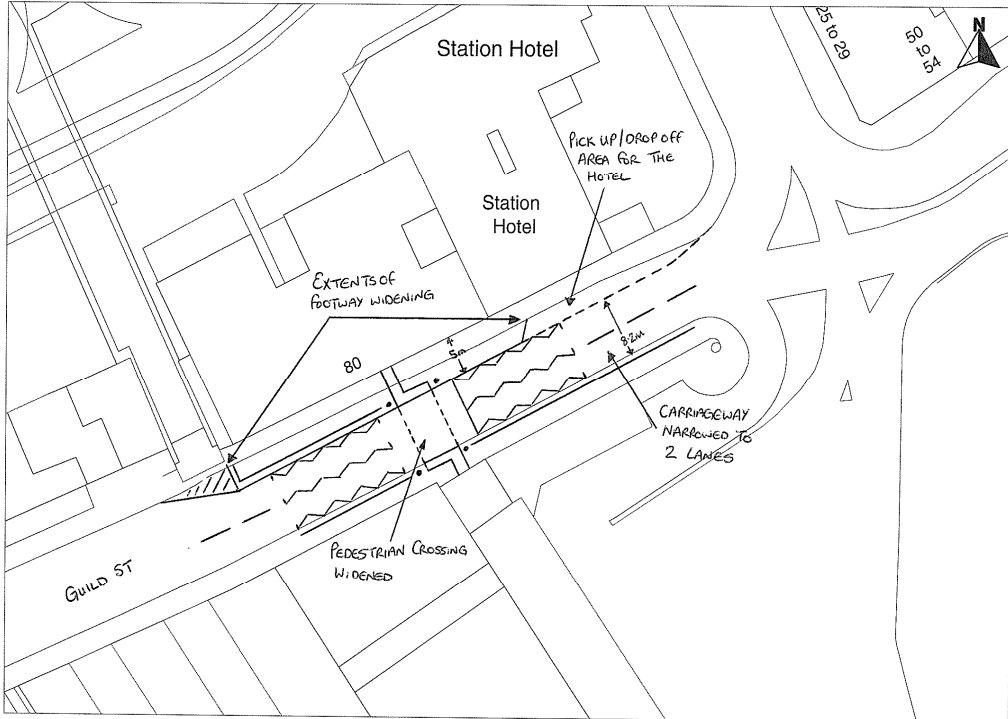
None

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## Appendix 1





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