

ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration and City Solicitor

**Strategic Priorities: Attractive and Inclusive City
Corporate Improvement Objectives: CI101, CI104**

1 Why has the report come to the Committee

1.1 To consider the adequacy of public footpaths in the city and the progress being made on improving the situation in the Washington Area.

2 Background

2.1 On 16 June 2008, the Review Committee agreed its work programme for the year ahead. One of the items requested for inclusion by members was the adequacy of public footpaths in parts of the city, particularly relating to the Washington area.

2.2 Burney Johnson and Allan Calvert have been invited to the meeting in order to update the Committee on the current position. This will include background on the existing situation within the city and the progress being made on a project based in Washington which is being funded through the Council's Strategic Investment Plan.

3 Current Position

3.1 The Council's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) has been developed as a mechanism to achieve significant improvement in priority areas through projects which have a strong focus on bringing tangible improvements to those issues which mean the most to local people. A key priority for the city is the reduction of road traffic accidents and encouraging people to both walk and use public transport.

3.2 The Washington Road Safety Measures project was included in the SIP. The project addresses road safety, accessibility and community safety matters across the Washington Area. The project will also introduce new pedestrian links and bus stop facilities, improving conditions for current users and encouraging more public transport use. This will improve the safety of local people as well as promoting wider take up of public transport and walking. The Project will modernise the main transport corridors in Washington and in particular will introduce better and safer access improving perceptions of and satisfaction with public transport.

3.3 The nature of the project reflects the particular features of Washington:-

- Bus only links in each village centre;
- Bus services on perimeter routes not served by adequate footways and bus stops.

- 3.4 The key benefits will be centred on safety movement of people, including children as well as more efficient and sustainable transport links for the Washington Area, which are consistent with the strategies set out in the current Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 3.5 The Review Committee will be updated on the current position in relation to this scheme and its implications at a citywide level

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to consider the progress being made on the Washington Road Safety Measures Project and its implications for the rest of the city.