



Title: **Nicholson Road, Torquay – Potential Widening Scheme to Improve Traffic flow**

Wards Affected: **Shiphay with the Willows**

To: **Transport Working Party** On: **10<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

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## **1. Key points and Summary**

- 1.1 Officers have been requested to carry out a feasibility study to consider potential widening of Nicholson Road, Torquay.
- 1.2 This briefing note is intended to advise members of the available options and to request whether the scheme should be moved forward to implementation.
- 1.3 The report to this Working Party in respect of proposed parking restrictions in Nicholson Road should be considered in conjunction with this briefing note as implementation may overcome the initial issues.

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 Nicholson Road, Torquay is currently subject to a high demand for on street parking due to drivers looking for alternative parking opportunities where their employers offer limited off street parking in the area.
- 2.2 As parking is currently available on both sides of the road the area can become congested due to the fact that the remaining road space is not sufficient to enable two way traffic.
- 2.3 Officers have been requested by the Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Transport to investigate a scheme to widen Nicholson Road to allow parking on both sides and allow a minimum width for two way traffic.
- 2.4 From the site surveys it is apparent that widening may be a relatively simple option on part of the road which is adjacent to the rear of the Sainsbury's store by using the existing highway verge.

- 2.5 There is not however a scheme that could be delivered on the remaining length of the road in the short term due to land ownership and a considerable drop in level from the back of the adopted highway, which would require a substantial retaining structure to be constructed.
- 2.6 A minimum scheme to widen the available section of road, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this briefing note is estimated to cost approximately £50,000, provided that no major service diversions are required and could widen this section of road by around 1.5m, which would be sufficient to keep the road two way through that section. Funding would be provided through the introduction of on-street pay and display within the road.
- 2.7 Since carrying out this study the adjacent Sainsbury's store has been granted planning consent for alterations and a new goods entrance to the rear of the store in Nicholson Road and have requested that parking restrictions are placed across their new entrance for visibility and operational reasons. The request is detailed in the report to this working Party titled 'Nicholson Road, Torquay – Consideration of the Provision of Parking Restrictions'.
- 2.8 If approval is given to the request for parking restrictions then it is likely that the gap in parking created as a result will act as an informal passing bay and this in itself may overcome the congestion issue. Members may therefore wish to consider whether progression of the widening scheme is appropriate until the parking issue is finalised and the effect can be monitored.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 Members are requested for guidance as to whether they wish a scheme to widen a section of Nicholson Road to be progressed at the present time, taking into account the decision on whether parking restrictions in this area are recommended for implementation.

**Patrick Carney**  
**Service Manager – Streetscene and Place**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Location plan of section which can be considered for widening

### **Documents available in members' rooms**

None

### **Background Papers:**

None