

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of its wider Growth Plan, the Council has been taking forward a comprehensive regeneration of the Southern City Centre, to maximise the positive economic impact on the local economy, bringing new jobs and greater prosperity to the City. This follows on from the completion of the Transport Hub at the railway station, the new tram extensions arriving there, transformation of Station Street, and more public/private investment in Carrington Street.
- 2.2 The new Nottingham College City Hub has now commenced and transformation of the Castle is progressing well. Both the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre (BMSC) and Broadmarsh Car Park (BMCP) developments, including a new bus station and public library, are now progressing on site. Collin Street, which bridges above part of the BMSC, has also been re-waterproofed.
- 2.3 This report considers the next stage of the Broadmarsh roadspace transformation, particularly the removal of non-essential traffic from the Broadmarsh area and the creation of a more pedestrian friendly environment through the enhancement of the public realm.

2.4 Project Progress

- 2.5 The Broadmarsh roadspace transformation and public realm programme has moved forward significantly since Executive Board approval in December 2015 and receipt of funding secured from the Government's Local Growth Fund through the D2N2 LEP.
- 2.6 The transformation of Nottingham Station and surrounding area included the removal of traffic and creation of new public realm on Station Street, between Carrington Street and Trent Street. This has proven a catalyst for adjacent development.
- 2.7 Changes have also been made to the Southern Relief Route, which connects London Road with Maid Marian Way. These include widening on London Road, junction widening on Waterway Street and Wilford Road, Queens Road carriageway barriers and the Sherriffs Way taxi rank feeder. Red routes have been introduced along the route and on Station Street. A new road link has also been built to connect Albion Street and Melville Street, off Canal Street. These changes have been made to ease the flow of traffic and provide extra highway network capacity to enable through traffic to be removed from Collin Street and Canal Street.
- 2.8 The next stage of roadspace transformation will include highway works to enable Greyfriar Gate (currently one way northbound) to accommodate two way (north and southbound) traffic. It will also include modification of the Canal Street/ Middle Hill and Canal Street/Carrington Street junctions.
- 2.9 Following completion of the above highway works, it will be possible to remove traffic from Collin Street and Carrington Street and introduce a bus only section on Canal Street between Middle Hill and Greyfriar Gate. This will create a more pedestrian friendly environment which will allow an enhanced public realm to be introduced.

Further details of the roadspace transformation proposals can be found in Appendix A.

- 2.10 The decision on the timing of the above highway network changes needs to take account of constraints imposed by the construction of the BMSC and BMCP developments, in particular proposed extensive utility diversions on Canal Street and Carrington Street that are planned to take place during 2019. The current proposal is therefore to co-ordinate the highway changes set out in paragraph 2.8 with the utility diversions and to complete the changes during the early part of 2020. An indicative programme is set out in Appendix B.
- 2.11 Once the network changes have been made it will then be possible to introduce new pedestrianised public realm on Collin Street and Carrington Street North, whilst also improving the pedestrian environment on Canal Street and Carrington Street South. Furthermore, since the above proposals secured Executive Board approval in December 2015, the Nottingham College City Hub has come forward and is now under construction, east of Sussex Street. This creates an opportunity to further expand the public realm across Middle Hill to the new Skills Hub development. This would create an exciting new public space in the City and ensure appropriate connectivity between all the new developments in the area.
- 2.12 Illustrative public realm designs have been developed and these are illustrated on the drawings set out in Appendix C.
- 2.13 In progressing the full scale roadspace transformation of this area, the Council has always made clear it will move forward in stages, as funds are confirmed. This approach can be seen in the early progress described in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7. Although significant Local Growth Fund has already been secured to deliver the highway network changes and public realm improvements, the available funding is insufficient to fully deliver the expanded public realm programme described in paragraph 2.11 and shown on the illustrative designs in Appendix C. It is therefore recommended that the next phase of the programme is taken forward in two stages, as follows:

Stage 1 - It is initially proposed to complete the highway works set out in paragraph 2.8 above and public realm improvements on Carrington Street North (Canal Street to Collin Street) and Collin Street (Melville Street to Middle Hill) using existing funding. These works are programmed to be completed in advance of the full opening of the BMSC and BMCP developments (including proposed new library). This stage may also include the partial implementation of public realm improvements in the Middle Hill/Sussex Street area, funded by the Local Growth Fund, to co-ordinate with the opening of the Nottingham College City Hub planned for autumn 2020.

Stage 2 – Seek additional grant funding before committing to the public realm improvements proposed for the remainder of Collin Street (west of Melville Street), the Middle Hill/Sussex Street area adjacent to the Nottingham College Skills Hub and Carrington Street South.

2.14 It is recognised that if insufficient funding is secured to deliver the current proposals the scope, design and specification for Stage 2 would need to be reconsidered or delayed in implementation. Nevertheless, there are funding opportunities for these works that the Council are optimistic about realising.