TEAM MANAGER, HIGHWAY RECORDS

REPORT TO HEAD OF STRATEGIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE 28 MARCH 2018

PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT PORTOBELLO STREET, SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek authority to approve the proposed Stopping-Up Order for part of Portobello Street in Sheffield city centre.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An application to make a Highway Stopping-Up Order, under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, has been made to the Department for Transport's National Transport Casework Team (N.T.C.T.).
- 2.2 N.T.C.T. has contacted the City Council, as a statutory consultee, in respect of the proposed closure.
- 2.3 The applicant is seeking the permanent closure as highway of a disabled parking bay and section of footway on Portobello Street in Sheffield city centre. A planning application under reference 17/05128/FUL for the erection of a university engineering facility (use class D1), including demolition of the current Portobello wing building and works to the retained rear elevation of the Portobello Centre including provision of escape routes and associated landscaping/highways works, is currently pending a decision.
- 2.4 The applicant contends that, in order to facilitate the development (should it get planning consent), it will be necessary to permanently stop up the area of highway footway and disabled parking bay shown by hatching on the closure plan included as Appendix A.

3.0 CONSULTATIONS

3.1 In this particular case, it is not the role of the City Council to consult the statutory organisations and other relevant bodies. However, as part of the process of making the application to N.T.C.T., the applicant should have consulted the usual sources and been in discussion with affected parties concerning the resiting and protection of their equipment. It is understood that the N.T.C.T. also make their own consultations as appropriate. At the time of writing this report the Council had not received notification of any objections.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Director of Legal Services has been consulted and has advised that, assuming the subject area of highway needs to be stopped up to facilitate the development, and subject to the granting of planning consent, it will be appropriate to process the closure using the powers contained within Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

5.0 HIGHWAY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Portobello Street is an unclassified all-purpose adopted public highway.
- 5.2 In order to facilitate the proposed new building on the site, the developer seeks to remove the current arrangement of a 3-space disabled parking bay with footway around the back, and replace it with a 'straight through' footway along the frontage of the new development.
- 5.3 Officers in the Council's Highway Development Management team have noted that the current disabled parking bays are available for use by any blue-badge holders, and are not specifically reserved for use by the university. On that basis, any planning consent given will have a condition that the three current disabled parking spaces on Portobello Street adjacent to the site shall remain available for use until three new disabled parking spaces have been provided in a suitable alternative location agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Furthermore, the applicant must fund the Traffic Regulation Order, all necessary signing, road marking, provision of drop kerbs for access to the footway, and relevant reinstatements. They must also suitably compensate the Council for loss of revenue if the new disabled spaces replace any current 'Pay & Display' spaces.
- 5.4 On that basis, the Council is satisfied that:
 - it will be necessary to close the existing highway shown on the plan attached as Appendix A in order to facilitate the planning consent (if granted);
 - the removal of that land from the highway will not have a detrimental effect on users of the surrounding highway network, or affect the public's enjoyment of the area.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No particular equal opportunity implications arise from the proposal in this report.
- 6.2 The overall number of disabled parking spaces in the city centre will not change as a result of this proposal, although clearly three of them will be in different positions, yet to be decided.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No particular environmental implications arise from the proposal in this report.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There will be no increase in financial liability on the Council as a result of this proposed Stopping Up Order.
- 8.2 The costs associated with, and arising from, the permanent highway closure, consequent works on site, and consequent off-site works to provide the three replacement disabled parking bays, will all be met by the applicant.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 Based on the above information, I have no objections to the proposed Order, as shown on the plan included at Appendix A.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Subject to planning consent, raise no objection to the proposed stopping up of the disabled parking lay-by and part of the footway of Portobello Street, Sheffield, shown by hatching on the plan included as Appendix A.
- 10.2 Authorise the Director of Legal Services to notify N.T.C.T. of this decision.

Richard Day Principal Engineer Highway Records & Address Management Highway Maintenance Division

28 March 2018

REPORT APPROVED BY TOM FINNEGAN-SMITH HEAD OF STRATEGIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



