

## **Carriageway Widening, Boutport Street, between Bear Street and Butchers Row**

Report of the Head of Highways and Traffic Management

***Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the scheme shown on drawing number ENV5263/BP/2 be approved at an estimated cost of £30,000.

### **1. Summary**

In order improve traffic flow, in particularly for buses, it is proposed to widen the vehicular carriageway along Boutport Street, between Bear Street and Butchers Row.

### **2. Background/Introduction**

Boutport Street is a main thoroughfare for buses and large delivery vehicles. Between Bear Street and Butchers Row, the existing carriageway width is 2.9 metres. Currently when there is a large vehicle parked in one of the bays on either side of the road, buses and lorries can find the road impassable. This leads to delays for buses and congestion for remaining traffic. On the eastern side of the road, outside The Panniers Wetherspoons Pub, there is an existing footway of 4 metres wide.

### **3. Proposal**

The proposal is illustrated in drawing no. ENV5263/BP/2. It is proposed to widen the vehicular carriageway to 4 metres by reducing the eastern footway to 2.5 metres wide. By reducing the footway, the existing loading and disabled bays will be set back further from the road to provide a greater width. The remaining footway width of 2.5 metres is still above the national guidance and provides sufficient width for pedestrians, wheelchair users and pushchairs.

If agreed, it is intended to complete the works during January, after the Christmas shopping period.

### **4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data**

Consultation has been sought from the County Councillor for the area and the town council. No problems were identified with the proposal. If the HATOC Committee approve the proposal it is intended to inform the local businesses, residents and bus operators of the proposal during November.

### **5. Financial Considerations**

The estimated cost of this scheme is £30,000. This sum has been identified in the Local Transport Plan 2012/13 – Market and Coastal Towns Rural 'Foundation' Programme.

## **6. Sustainability Considerations**

The objectives and strategies of the Devon Local Transport Plan aim to improve public travel to reduce unnecessary use of the private car, as a contribution to improving Devon's environmental, social and economic well being.

The scheme supports this objective by reducing the likelihood of delays on bus routes and therefore improves the overall service.

## **7. Carbon Impact Considerations**

By improving traffic flow the scheme will locally reduce the levels of CO2.

## **8. Equality Considerations**

There are not considered to be any equality issues in regards to this scheme.

## **9. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations.

## **10. Risk Management Considerations**

Financial risk has been identified and appropriate allowances within the scheme estimate have been made to protect the Council's position.

No risks have been identified.

## **11. Public Health Impact**

There will be no specific impact to public health.

## **12. Options/Alternatives**

It has been deemed inappropriate for the status quo to be maintained due to the congestion caused by vehicles unable to pass along the road.

A previous proposal of replacing the loading and disabled bays on the eastern side of the carriageway has been rejected by local businesses due to its knock on effect to their trade. This proposal removes the constriction to traffic and also maintains road space for parking and delivery bays that are needed to support the local business community.

## **13. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion**

The proposed scheme will improve traffic flow along Boutport Street and consequently improve local bus routes.

Lester Willmington  
Head of Highways and Traffic Management

**Electoral Division: Barnstaple North**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

rd240912ndh  
sc/cr/carriageway widening boutport street bear street butchers row  
02 111012



East Gate

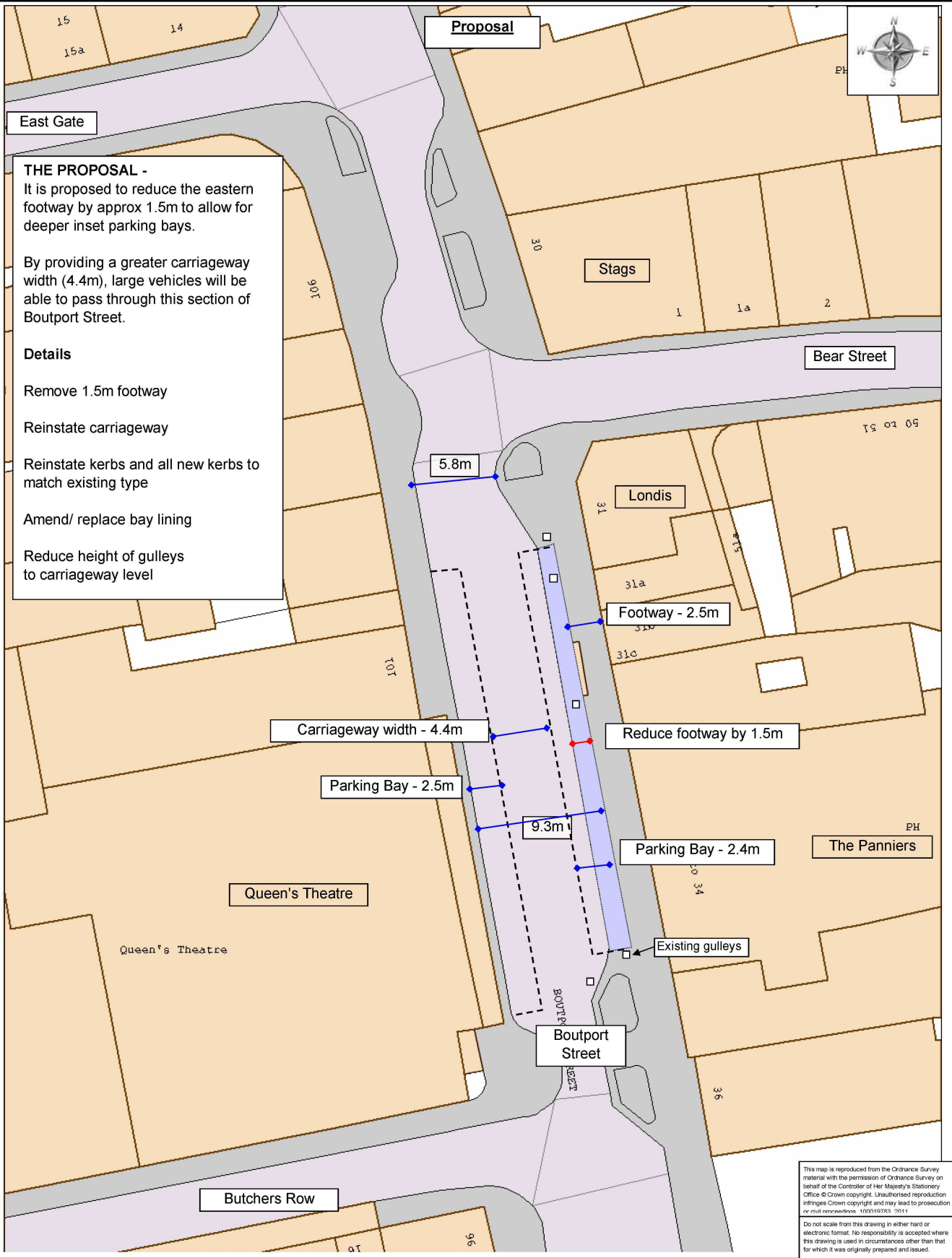
Proposal

**THE PROPOSAL -**  
 It is proposed to reduce the eastern footway by approx 1.5m to allow for deeper inset parking bays.

By providing a greater carriageway width (4.4m), large vehicles will be able to pass through this section of Boutport Street.

**Details**

- Remove 1.5m footway
- Reinstate carriageway
- Reinstate kerbs and all new kerbs to match existing type
- Amend/ replace bay lining
- Reduce height of gulleys to carriageway level



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drawn by	MP	scale	NTS
date	05-Jul-2012	O.S. Ref	255920; 133299
drawing number	ENV 5263/BP/2		

**Devon County Council**

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SCHEME

**BOUTPORT STREET, BARNSTAPLE**  
 (Consultation purposes only)

DRAWING

**PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY WIDENING**