

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Highways Committee Report

Report of:	Simon Green, Executive Director, Place
Date:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
Subject:	Edward Street Park Project
Author of Report:	Matt Hayman, City Development Division

#### Summary:

This report sets out essential highway improvement works associated with the delivery of the Edward Street Park project. The design was developed following feasibility work and public consultation. Planning permission for the park design was granted in April 2011 and will require closure of parts of Edward Street and Upper Allen Street to general traffic.

Approval is sought for the design and construction of highways works associated with Edward Street Park.

## **Reasons for Recommendations:**

The highways design will contribute to improving the environment and setting for the park, encouraging greater numbers of local residents, workers and visitors to use the space. It is anticipated that the completed park will also provide a catalyst for further investment in the area.

#### **Recommendations:**

Approve the proposed highway works associated with the Edward Street Park project; and

#### Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

# Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial implications	
NO Cleared by: Matthew Bullock on 21.9.11	
Legal implications	
NO Cleared by: Julian Ward on 28.9.11	
Human rights implications	
NO	
Tackling Health Inequalities implications	
NO	
Equality of Opportunity implications	
NO Cleared by: Ian Oldershaw on 19.9.11	
Environmental and Sustainability implications	
NO	
Economic impact	
NO	
Community safety implications	
NO	
Human resources implications	
NO	
Property implications	
NO	
Area(s) affected	
Central Community Assembly	
Relevant Scrutiny Board if decision called in	
Culture, Economy & Sustainability	
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council? NO	
Press release NO	
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## 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011

## EDWARD STREET PARK PROJECT RESULTS OF PUBLIC AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER CONSULTATION

- 1.0 SUMMARY
- 1.1 This report sets out essential highway improvement works associated with the delivery of the Edward Street Park project. The design was developed following feasibility work and public consultation. Planning permission for the park design was granted in April 2011 and will require closure of parts of Edward Street and Upper Allen Street to general traffic.
- 1.2 Approval is sought for the design and construction of highways works associated with Edward Street Park.
- 2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHEFFIELD
- 2.1 These works and the associated Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Road Closure Order (RCO) will allow the delivery of the approved Edward Street Park design to enhance and expand an underused open space in the city centre.
- 2.2 A safer environment will be created for users of the new park including local residents, workers and visitors to the area.
- 2.3 The proposals will contribute to meeting the City Council's corporate plan ambition of 'Protecting and enhancing the environment' by contributing to the priority of 'Improving Parks and Open Spaces'.
- 3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY
- 3.1 General traffic access will be prevented from passing through the park by the proposed access restriction. Servicing will be allowed to but, the speed of vehicles will be controlled by the careful choice of paving materials and its proximity to street furniture.
- 3.2 The project includes new tree planting including 4 new trees in the highway on Edward Street.
- 4.0 REPORT

#### **Background**

- 4.1 Since the adoption of the St. Vincent's Action Plan 2004 (SVAP) there has been considerable investment in new residential and office developments in the immediate area. It is estimated that there are up to 3000 new residents now living in the area.
- 4.2 This previously industrial part of the city centre requires new/improved open space for these new residents and workers. The proposed site is central to a

growing community providing views to the north of the city (Upper Don Valley) and beyond. The action plan and subsequent feasibility and consultations identified a need for improved open space in this location and the proposals received strong support from local residents, workers, developers and businesses. The consultation included a presentation to the Edward Street Tenants and Residents Association (TARA).

4.3 The project is being delivered by the City Development Division and is funded by accumulated Section 106 contributions from new housing development and European Regional Development Fund programme, Interreg VALUE Plus. It will provide a larger, more useable/accessible space for local residents and is part of a strategy to encourage future investment and development in the area. The site is owned by the City Council and maintained by Sheffield Homes. The location of the site is shown at Appendix A.

## Park Design

- 4.4 Currently, the site is an old fashioned ball games court with marginal/unused grass areas. The space is severed by Edward Street and feels insecure especially at night due to the enclosing walls around the old ball games court and the poor lighting levels. The site is in a run down state with little to encourage its active use for relaxation and general recreation. Nevertheless it is located once more at the heart of a densely populated urban area with large numbers of children and students who have virtually no other garden or green space other than that within Edward Street flats. The park project will provide:
  - New pedestrian routes/stepped routes
  - Enhanced environment for residents
  - Improved Street and amenity lighting
  - Enhanced ball games space
  - New Performance/Event Space
  - Reduced traffic on Edward Street with the introduction of one way system and reduction in highway width
  - New seating
  - New planting/trees
  - Public Art

Planning permission was granted in April 2011 for the design shown at Appendix B.

## Highway Design

- 4.5 The proposed highway design and associated TRO and RCO are key elements of the design for Edward Street Park. A plan of the proposed highway works is attached at Appendix C. The work includes:
  - Realignment and reduction in the width of the highway on Edward Street
  - Resurfacing
  - New lights
  - Bollards
  - Widening of footway on Edward Street and introduction of tree grills and trees;

- Widening of footway on Edward Street and
- Provision of a servicing bay for businesses fronting Edward Street (Tesco, and vacant unit).
- Creation of a one-way system with restricted access for permit holders
- 4.6 The TRO was advertised on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to create a one way system with restricted access for permit holders (issued to premises within the park boundary), refuse collection, emergency and maintenance vehicles. Entry to the park will be formally signed as a Pedestrian Zone. The TRO plan is attached at Appendix D.
- 4.7 The emergency services, bus operators and Veolia were consulted as normal with no adverse comment being received. The public and surrounding commercial premises were contacted by letter inviting comment or objection between 29th July 2011 to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011. No comments were received.
- 4.8 The proposed realignment of Edward Street requires a Road Closure Order for small areas of highway land that are no longer required. An application to the Secretary of State under Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 has been made. The Order is being made by the Department for Transport who will ultimately be responsible for confirming the S247 Closure Order; provided there are no objections. Notices advertising the proposed closure were posted on site on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 with a 28 day objection period. A verbal update on any comments received to the closure order will be given at the meeting. The order plan is attached at Appendix E.

#### **Relevant Implications**

- 4.9 The project budget was included in the capital programme approved at Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The budget makes provision for the cost of proposed highways works outlined in this report. The ERDF variation highlighted at 4.1.3 has not yet been approved. Cabinet approval is expected on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011
- 4.10 An equality impact assessment has been completed for this project. It concludes that the project will be of universal benefit to all users regardless of age, sex, race, faith, disability, sexuality, etc. However, it will have particular positive benefits for the disabled, elderly and carers by improving access to this open space. Also to women, vulnerable adults and the young through improved street and amenity lighting and families with children due to improved play/activity areas. In addition the project will contribute positively to community cohesion in an area with a diverse and mixed tenure population.

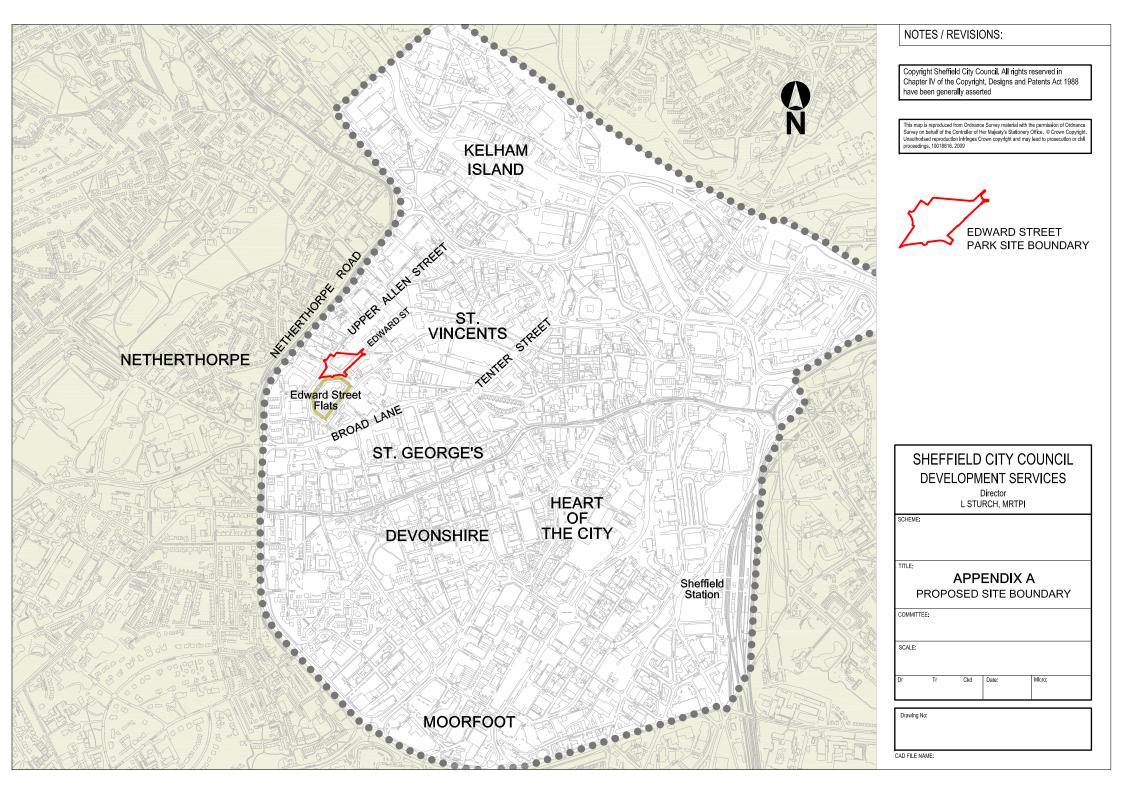
## 5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 **Do nothing** The option of leaving the existing highway as it is would not allow for the introduction of new pedestrian routes and the creation of a safer environment for pedestrians and users of the park.
- 5.2 **Full Road Closure** It was accepted that service access for the Tesco store on Edward Street must go through the park. It is expected that any future servicing needs on Upper Allen Street and Edward Street, larger than 7.5 tonnes, will also need to run through the park.

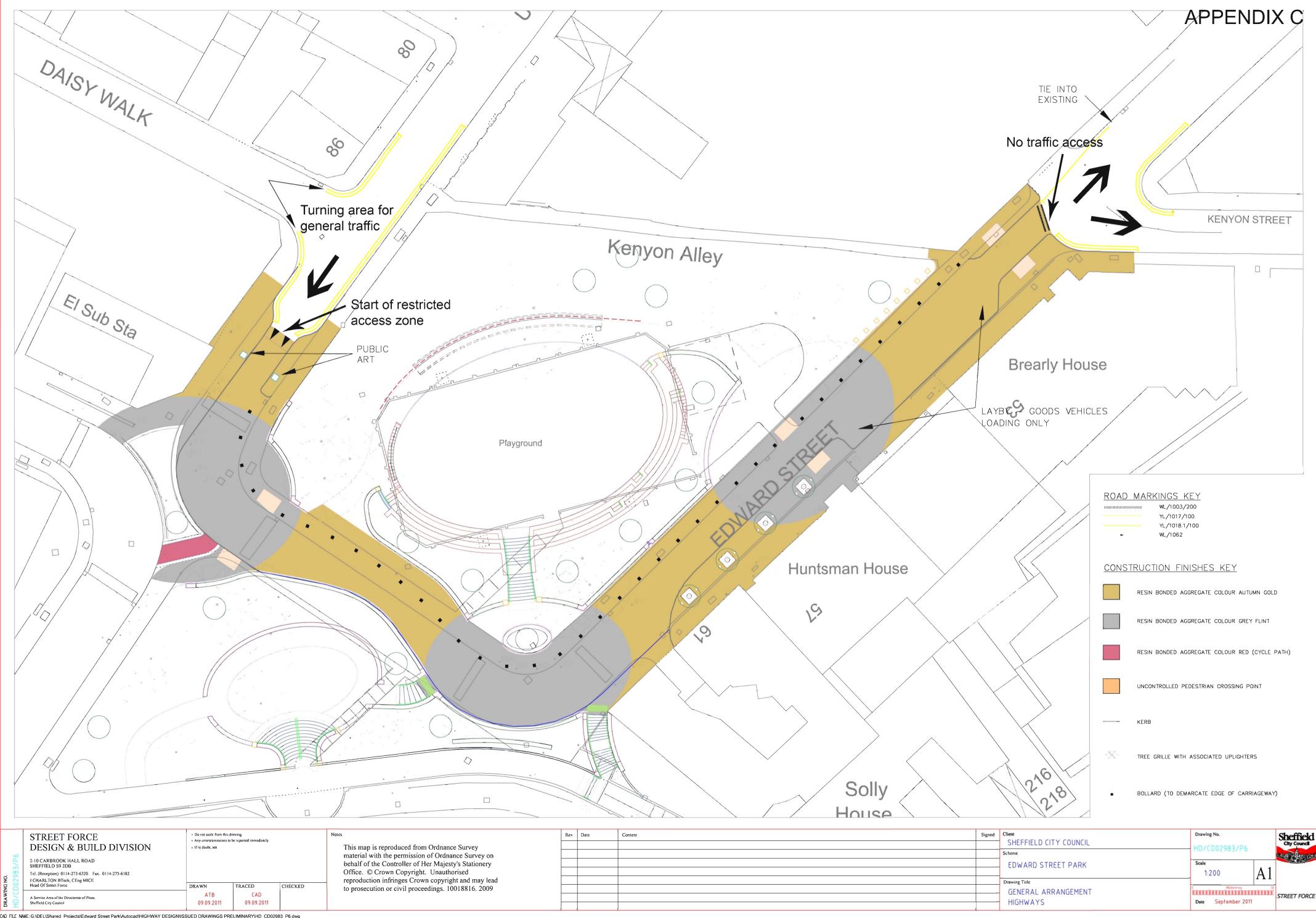
## 6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

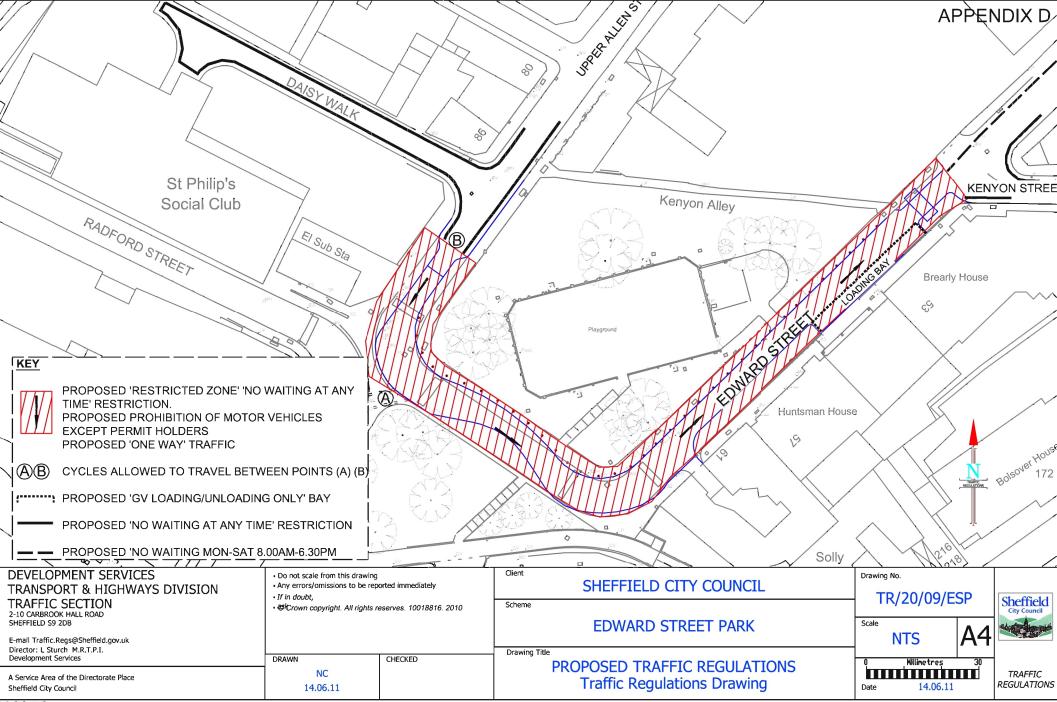
- 6.1 The highways design will contribute to improving the environment and setting for the park, encouraging greater numbers of local residents, workers and visitors to use the space. It is anticipated that the completed park will provide a catalyst for further investment in the area.
- 7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS
- 7.1 Approve the proposed highway works associated with the Edward Street Park project.

Simon Green Executive Director, Place 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011









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