

## 18. LICHFIELD/TUAM STREETS AND INNER CITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Streets Manager	<b>Author</b> Stephen Matheson
Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to the Council	

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to engage consultants outside of the normal procedures for engagement and to provide an update on two central city transportation projects.

The City Streets capital expenditure programme provides for a series of projects in the central city described in the Annual Plan as major amenity improvements. In the current financial year this includes work in Oxford Terrace and Worcester Street. In the following two years provision has been made in the Annual Plan for a proposal to swap the southern one way pair, Lichfield and Tuam Streets, and for the further improvements to Colombo Street between Hereford Street and Lichfield Street.

The Lichfield/Tuam and Colombo Streets projects are potentially important components of the Central City development plan. The changes proposed could have significant impacts on a large number of stakeholders in and near these streets, on the passenger transport system and the general motoring public. For the projects to be successful there will need to be a high level of public engagement and consultation. The City Streets Unit would probably need to take on additional staff or hire consultants to assist with this consultation.

The Central City Forum, through the Strategy and Resources Committee, have engaged urban design consultants 'Common Ground' to prepare a central city strategy and a process for engaging (consulting) the community about this strategy. This work is to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

It has been proposed by the Chairman of the City Services Committee that to link the projects Common Ground should also be engaged by City Streets for the consultation process and concept design work for the Lichfield/Tuam and Colombo Streets projects. This would provide continuity and co-ordination with the work being done on the Central City Strategy. It would also ensure that discussion on a single transportation project does not hinder progress on the Central City Strategy.

Common Ground's estimated cost to define and deliver a communication and design strategy for the Lichfield/Tuam Streets project is \$22,500. The work would be done in three parts; first prepare an engagement strategy, secondly its delivery and thirdly a design response assuming some level of buy in from those stakeholders engaged. Work on the first two stages would be done in November and December with final reporting by the end of February 2001. The estimate for the work appears reasonable for what is proposed.

A significant amount of staff time has already been invested in undertaking a scoping study for the Lichfield/Tuam Streets project and in preparing concept proposals for the Colombo St improvements. This work has covered:

The History of the Lichfield Street one way system  
City Plan Issues  
Land Use Planning Issues  
Transport Planning and Operational Issues  
Bus Routing and Exchange Issues  
Computer Modelling Issues

It is proposed that the findings from the work done to date be presented to Councillors at two seminars to be held in early November. This timing will provide Councillor input and direction in a timeframe that suits the development of the Central City Strategy and prior to Common Ground commencing work on the Lichfield/Tuam Streets project. The seminar dates are:

Central City and Colombo Street concepts	3 November
Lichfield/Tuam Street and the one way system	10 November

- Recommendation:**
1. The information be received.
  2. That Common Ground be engaged to define and deliver an engagement and design strategy for the Lichfield/Tuam Streets project.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.