

# ITEM 7

Minute Extract

Area Panel 5 - 1 December 2004

## 33/04      Update Report

### **Walking Routes into the City Centre**

Bill Reed reported that Birchover developers had now signed an agreement to pay for the cost of a surface crossing from the inner ring road to Queen Street and improvements to the subway underneath St Mary's Bridge. It was also reported that the problem of vermin in the underpass was now under control. Concerns were raised over public safety and reference made to a recent newspaper report about attacks on users of the subway. Councillor Repton suggested that the Council Cabinet take all possible steps to achieve the closure of the underpass by St Mary's Bridge and substitute it with a surface crossing at the earliest possible date. Councillor Hickson responded by reporting that the timescale for the improvements required depended on budget constraints but it was hoped that finances would be available in the next financial year.

A member of the public raised concerns about protection of trees in the area. Councillor Hickson responded that public safety was the main priority. Discussion took place about the type of surface crossing, including lighting provision. Inspector McLaughlin was asked if it was possible to police the subway. He said policing was feasible and he would raise the issue with his colleagues.

**Agreed to ask Cabinet to address the matter of the surface crossing urgently.**