

20 July 2017

Agenda Item: 7

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING, RESOURCES &
CULTURE****COTGRAVE MULTI USER GREENWAY PROJECT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the implementation of a revised and phased scheme for the Cotgrave Greenway following a successful funding bid.

Information and Advice

2. Part of the former mineral line between Cotgrave Colliery (now Cotgrave Country Park) and the main line junction at Radcliffe-on-Trent was acquired by the Council in 2012 as part of a portfolio of former colliery mineral lines being disposed of by Network Rail.
3. Capital funding to fund the conversion of the lines into new greenways was allocated and approved in 2013-14, and the relevant planning permissions were acquired. External match funding was also acquired to enable the completion of routes in Bilsthorpe and Manton; however, conversion of the Cotgrave route was delayed, apart from clearance and some small scale fencing and other essential safety works, as additional external funding was not available at the time.
4. The necessary additional funding, drawn mainly from the European Regional Development Fund, along with developer contributions from housing and commercial development schemes, has now been acquired.
5. It is proposed that the project be undertaken in a phased fashion. The initial phase will create the connecting route and allow for public access and usage. Because the changes from the former approval are significant, new planning permission is required; this will be determined in the near future. The anticipated detailed work included in this initial phase is set out below (see attached plans at **Appendices 1, 2 and 3**):
 - creation of a 3km, 2.5m wide off-road route between Cotgrave Country Park and Radcliffe-on-Trent. The route will be constructed by regrading and compacting existing ballast and surfacing with recycled aggregate
 - construction of a 2m access ramp to connect to Holme Lane at the northern extent of the site, which will provide access to Radcliffe-on-Trent

- interconnection with Bridleway No. 1, which runs east-west from Nottingham Road to Main Road, a little way to the south of Thornton's Holt camping and caravan site on Stragglethorpe Road
 - clearance, maintenance and habitat enhancement works along the extent of the route to achieve biodiversity benefits and create a green corridor between the Country Park and the wider countryside
 - possible construction of steps at Stragglethorpe Road from the public footpath to the west of Thornton's Holt caravan and campsite, for the use of pedestrians (this may be delivered as a future phase should funding not allow inclusion in the initial phase).
6. Subsequent works to enhance the route will be undertaken if further funding is obtained. This work will include:
- enhanced route surfacing
 - the provision of an access ramp from the footpath/cycleway alongside the A52
 - the provision of an access ramp from Stragglethorpe Road
 - demolition of the redundant Holme Lane Bridge.
7. The creation of this greenway will provide opportunity for recreation and healthy exercise, including a safe crossing of the A52 and the Stragglethorpe Road. The route will add to existing off road provision to create a network extending from Radcliffe-on-Trent to Cotgrave and West Bridgford via the Grantham Canal. It will also interconnect with local cycle routes and link with the Trent Valley Way footpath route. In addition, the route will provide interconnectivity between the Country Parks at Cotgrave and Holme Pierrepont and the Wildlife Trust reserve at Holme Pierrepont. The project will also provide a significant asset to leisure and tourism businesses in the immediate area.

Delivery structure and timescales

8. The project forms part of the Highway capital programme, and will be undertaken on land managed by the Country Parks and Green Estates Service. On completion, the greenway will form part of Cotgrave Country Park.
9. Via East Midlands has been commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council to:
- design, project manage and procure works required to deliver the project
 - secure and administer claim process to receive external ERDF grant funding as joint delivery partner with Nottinghamshire County Council.
10. Via East Midlands will liaise with the Country Parks Service and other stakeholders to ensure that the project achieves the intended aims. Key delivery milestones are outlined below:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Planning submission | June 2017 |
| • Completion site management plan | July 2017 |
| • Planning approval | August 2017 |
| • Start contracted works | September 2017 |

- Completion contracted works
- Commencement site management works

December 2017
January 2018

Other Options Considered

11. The available funding does not permit the implementation of the originally envisaged scheme. The provision of ramped accesses at the A52 and Stragglethorpe Road crossings are therefore omitted (though there are two intermediate access points near Stragglethorpe Road). There is an option to delay implementation of the scheme until such time as full funding becomes available or to abandon the scheme altogether and seek to dispose of the railway line. Neither option is considered desirable given the availability of grant funding and the access to the country park afforded to residents from Radcliffe and the links to the Trent Valley Way and Holme Pierrepont.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. This phased approach delivers a wide range of public benefits and will also achieve significant biodiversity gains for the local area.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. The costs set out below are estimates at this stage and will be subject to revision at the detail design stage. Because of external funding procurement requirements, it is proposed that the contract works will be procured using an open tender processed on a fixed cost contract by Via East Midlands.

Estimated costs	£ (1000)
External fees:	
Planning and ecological consultancy fees	6.5
Works Contract	225
Via design and project management	33.75
Materials, tools and sundries for ongoing volunteer management	4.5
Marketing / promotional materials	3.7
Total	273.45

15. The table below outlines the funding sources for the project that have been acquired.

Income	£ (1000)
NCC Capital	74
Private sector contribution to green estate for an easement	23
Cotgrave s106 contribution	50
ERDF grant (less £3,000 programme management fee to City Council)	126.45
Total	273.45

16. The external funding will be approved into the capital programme as part of a future Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee meeting.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

17. The route will be Disability Discrimination Act compliant at either end and the surface will be adequate for larger mobility vehicles. Chicanes can be incorporated into the design to slow down more vigorous cyclists and deter horse riders from rising into a canter so that families with young children are safe to use the route.

Implications for Service Users

18. The route will open Cotgrave Country Park to users who would otherwise have to drive to Cotgrave. There will also be improved connectivity to the rights of way network.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

19. There may be a small reduction in the use of cars to visit the Country Park. There will be significant gains to biodiversity in improving the green network between the Trent Valley and the Country Park.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the implementation of a revised and phased scheme for the Cotgrave Greenway following a successful funding bid be approved.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 06/07/17)

20. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 07/07/17)

21. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Radcliffe-on-Trent	Cllr Kay Cutts MBE
Cotgrave	Cllr Richard Butler

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