

20 March 2013**Agenda Item:7d****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY &
ENVIRONMENT****DISPOSAL OF PART OF HUCKNALL GATEWAY SITE TO NETWORK
RAIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval to dispose of part of the site known as Hucknall Gateway to Network Rail (NR) for the sum of £1 to facilitate the installation of a new footbridge over the railway/tramway.

Information and Advice

2. There have been two recent fatalities at the current pedestrian railway crossing on the southern outskirts of Hucknall. These have raised significant public concerns about the safety of the crossing.
3. Arising from a public meeting, Network Rail plan to erect a new footbridge to replace the crossing. They have approached the County Council with a view to acquiring a strip of land that is in Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) ownership, which is adjacent to the western side of the railway line, in order to accommodate the bridge ramps.
4. The strip is part of a small (3052m²) isolated piece, as set out on the attached plan, remaining following construction of the Hucknall bypass but not forming part of the adopted highway. The site is split into two sections, north and south, by a large drain. The southern section was landscaped to create a local amenity site as part of the road scheme but the northern section was left as a seasonally wet area and is now overgrown with trees. Once the bypass opened the whole area became neglected as there was nobody to maintain it but following complaints it was eventually placed under the management of NCC Green Estate service.
5. Network Rail requires a 7 metre wide strip along the western railway boundary of the northern section of the site for their bridge construction. They will also need access over the remaining northern section until the bridge has been constructed. There will be a requirement for NR to reinstate this land upon

completion of the construction and for them to erect a boundary fence and maintain thereafter.

6. The Service Director of Youth, Families and Culture has been consulted as well as the Group Manager, Country Parks and Green Estate. They have responsibility for NCC Green Estate management and are in full support of this proposal.
7. Due to the public benefit of the new crossing the County Council is only looking for a nominal consideration of £1 from NR. The transfer of the land will be the County Council contribution towards the scheme.

Other Options Considered

8. The proposed disposal represents the most appropriate way in which Network Rail can acquire the necessary land to construct their bridge. The other option would be to not allow Network Rail to purchase the land. If this option was taken it would mean the bridge could not be constructed and the public may be forced to use a crossing that has raised significant public health concerns in regard to its safety.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The northern part of the site has minimal recreational, leisure or environmental benefits and therefore, can be considered for disposal for a scheme that has much higher public safety requirements.
10. It would not be in the interest of the County Council to be unsupportive of a scheme that is of significant public benefit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

12. The provision of a safe railway crossing is a significant public benefit.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That approval is given to the disposal of the land outlined as set out on the attached plan which forms part of the Hucknall Gateway site to Network Rail for £1, together with temporary access rights during construction of the

proposed footbridge.

Jas Hundal
Service Director, Transport, Property & Environment

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Marie Glaister 0115 9772158

Constitutional Comments (EP 11-March 2013)

13. The recommendations in the report fall within the remit of the Finance and Property Committee.

Financial Comments (TR 11-March 2013)

14. There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

15. None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

16. Ward: Hucknall
Member(s): Councillors Tom Irvine, Mick Murphy & Kevin Rostance

File ref.: /MG/SL/70215
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Properties affected: 70215 - Land at Hucknall Lane