

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 15 July 2013</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>The Waverley-Handsworth Greenway</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Streetpride</b>

## **5. Summary**

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for the construction of the Waverley-Handsworth Greenway, a shared use footway/cycleway linking the Waverley New Community and AMP in Rotherham with Handsworth in Sheffield. The project has agreed funding from the South Yorkshire LTP and a small amount of design funding from LSTF.

## **6. Recommendations**

**Cabinet Member resolves that:**

- (i) The necessary legal authorisations to construct the scheme are sought from Harworth Estates,**
- (ii) That subject to receiving the legal authorisations in (i) above, that the construction of the Waverley – Handsworth Greenway project is approved.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

As part of the third South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) the SY Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) agreed to top slice funding for countywide activity aimed at those schemes that are either delivered across the whole sub-region, or cross boundary schemes that would be difficult to deliver from individual authority programmes.

One of the cross-boundary schemes that have been identified is a scheme of improvements to create a cycle/footpath linking Waverley New Community, the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) in Rotherham and Handsworth in Sheffield.

This will link a large established residential area (Handsworth / Richmond / Woodhouse), with the Advanced Manufacturing Park and Enterprise Zone employment sites of Waverley and the emerging residential development at Waverley New Community as shown on the plan at Appendix A. The route will link in to the wider National Cycle Network, and also complements further work proposed by Sheffield as part of their proposed 'Green Routes' cycle network. This increases the opportunity to access Waverley and the AMP, and reduces the considerable detour for cyclists and pedestrians that would otherwise be necessary.

The improvements include creating a 3 metre wide high quality all weather path and associated route signing. Within Rotherham this entails the resurfacing an existing access track approximately 1km long.

Working closely with officers at Sheffield City Council the design and materials have been agreed in order to maintain continuity across the border between the two districts. Network rail have recently refurbished the rail bridge which provides the connection at the boundary of Rotherham and Sheffield. The scheme ties together several existing investments which add considerable value to the project.

Harworth Estates [the land owners on the Rotherham side of the project] are supportive of the project and are currently making all the legal authorisations for the works to take place on their land.

## 8. Finance

The scheme has been financed from LTP countywide funds with some design fees paid for from LSTF. The breakdown of the total funding allocated towards the scheme is:

LTP central fund allocation 2013/2014	£194,406.83 (Countywide)
LSTF Main Bid programme (Design Fees)	£5,000 (project ref MF07)

All of the funding earmarked for this project is *in addition to* Rotherham's local LTP Integrated Transport programme. The cost of delivering Rotherham's section of the route is £132,000.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

If the opportunity to use LTP Countywide funding is not taken it is likely that without a hard surface existing condition will get worse and the route will remain unattractive. There is a risk that the necessary legal authorisations will not be forthcoming from Harworth Estates, but work will not commence until these are in place and as they

see a benefit to improving pedestrian and cycling links in this area the risk is considered to be low.

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The project contributes to the Council's Corporate Plan (improving the environment and safe and healthy communities) as well sustainability / carbon reduction aspirations.

The project also conforms to the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy policies supporting sustainable transport but in particular Policy S - To encourage active travel and develop high quality cycling and walking networks.

The scheme aligns well with the following plans and strategies: Don Valley Masterplan, Sheffield Green Routes Network Strategy, South Yorkshire Cycling Action Plan, Waverley Masterplan, Rotherham Cycling Strategy.

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The scheme has been considered and supported at the LTP Quality of Life group that considers the allocation of Countywide funding to active travel schemes.

Support has also been received from the Waverley New Community Travel Plan Steering Group and the Sheffield University Travel Plan Manager for the AMP departments.

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