

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 29 JULY 2014**

Title of report	<b>SUPPORTING CYCLING IN ASHBY</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community No
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Purpose of report	To seek approval from members to invest £40,000 in cycling infrastructure in Ashby de la Zouch.
Reason for Decision	To enable residents in Ashby de la Zouch and North West Leicestershire to take advantage of improved access to Hick's Lodge Cycle Centre
Council Priorities	Value for Money Green Footprints Challenge Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The 2013/14 provisional outturn report requests Cabinet to approve £40,000 for this project funded from the 2013/14 revenue budget under spending.  Leicestershire County Council is leading on the main project, with support from the Authority's Cultural Services and Community Focus Teams. Leicestershire County Council is the main funding partner of the proposal.
Link to relevant CAT	Green Footprints CAT.
Risk Management	Leicestershire County Council has allocated resources to enable delivery of this project and will lead all of the operational aspects.

Equalities Impact Assessment	Public Sector Equalities Duty assessment responsibility lies with Leicestershire County Council.
Human Rights	No implications.
Transformational Government	Not applicable.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	The draft Ashby cycling strategy has been developed in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and the Heart of the Forest Forum 'Access and Connectivity sub-group', which is drawn from local cycle and access groups.
Background papers	None
Recommendations	<b>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBERS APPROVE £40,000 IN CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH AS PART OF THE 2013/14 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT</b>

## 1.0 CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Authority has worked with Leicestershire County Council in consultation with local cycling groups to produce a draft cycling strategy for Ashby as illustrated in Appendix One. This has identified proposed key routes through the town, linking strategic sites such as schools, businesses and recreational sites.
- 1.2 Currently no official cycle route exists between Ashby de la Zouch and Hick's Lodge Cycle Centre. Leicestershire County Council has identified this as a high priority level 1 route within the draft cycling strategy for Ashby that would link Ridgway Road in the town to Hick's Lodge cycle centre. This is indicated as route 20 on the map at Appendix One
- 1.3 Leicestershire County Council's proposal for route 20 is to create a new shared-use footpath/cycle track through parkland and wood which would connect the town to the Cycle Centre.

- 1.4 The parkland and woods through which route 20 would run are privately owned. Leicestershire County Council will require agreement from the landowners before this could proceed.
- 1.5 Leicestershire County Council has requested that the Authority make a contribution towards the costs of introducing route 20.

## **2.0 FINANCIAL**

- 2.1 It is estimated that route 20 will cost between £50,000 to £200,000.
- 2.2 Leicestershire County Council has requested funding from the Authority for investment in cycle infrastructure within Ashby de la Zouch during the 2014/15 financial year.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Authority contribute £40,000 from 2013/14 revenue underspending to enable delivery of the route 20 project.

## **3.0 BENEFITS**

- 3.1 The benefits for the Authority will be recognition and publicity as a partner, which will include attendance at an opening event, further boosting our Green Footprints achievements.
- 3.2 The community benefits will be:
  - Improved access and connectivity within the community
  - Increased sustainable transport opportunities
  - Additional health and fitness opportunities
  - Economic benefits through tourism for Ashby town centre and Hicks Lodge Cycle centre