

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 26 JULY 2016**

Title of report	<b>SUPPORTING CYCLING IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community No
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Purpose of report	To seek approval from members to reallocate the sum of £40,000 identified for the development of cycle route 20 during 2014/15 to the cycle route between Hicks Lodge and Moira Furnace.
Reason for Decision	To reallocate resources due to the withdrawal of the original cycle route scheme
Council Priorities	Value for Money Green Footprints Challenge Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	To approve £40,000 for this project funded from an ear marked reserve. Leicestershire County Council is leading on the main project, with support from NWLDC Cultural Services and Community Focus Teams.
Link to relevant CAT	Green Footprints CAT
Risk Management	Leicestershire County Council has allocated resources to enable delivery of this project and will lead on all of the operational aspects.
Equalities Impact Screening	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 Deputy Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	The Heart of the Forest Forum 'Access and Connectivity working group' which is drawn from local cycle and access groups.
Background papers	<a href="#">Cabinet report 29 July 2014</a>
Recommendations	<b>CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO:  FURTHER APPROVE THE INVESTMENT OF £40,000 TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST</b>

## 1.0 CONTEXT

- 1.1 Cabinet recommended on 29 July 2014 to make £40,000 available for the investment in cycle infrastructure within Ashby de la Zouch during the 2014/15 financial year.
- 1.2 The approved proposal supported the development of route 20 in the Ashby de la Zouch Cycle Strategy (linking Hicks Lodge to Ashby de la Zouch) creating a new shared-use footpath/cycle track through parkland and woods, with the cost of the measures estimated at between £50,000 to £200,000.
- 1.3 Since Cabinet approved to invest in the development of route 20, part of the land required to develop the cycleway has been subject to a planning application and further planning appeal. The planning decision was to refuse the application and the appeal upheld this decision (APP/G2435/W/15/3027396). Various footpath modification orders have since been placed on the land and Leicestershire County Council is now not progressing this section of cycleway as a priority.
- 1.4 As a result of this decision by Leicestershire County Council the development of this option is not viable and the allocated £40,000 remains unspent. This report proposes diverting this sum of money to a number of phases of a cycleway between Hicks Lodge and Moira Furnance

## **2.0 CYCLE STRATEGY PROJECT UPDATE**

- 2.1 As a priority Leicestershire County Council are now progressing the development of the cycleway between Hicks Lodge and Moira Furnace. This is supported by The Heart of the Forest Forum - Access and Connectivity Working Group revised Cycling Strategy (April 2015) See Appendix one.
- 2.2 The development of the cycleway between Hicks Lodge and Moira Furnace (See Appendix two) is proposed to be developed in three phases, see appendices three, four and five:

### **Section one – Public Bridleway P105 (Hicks Lodge) to Newfields (Appendix three)**

Section constructed and opened Spring 2016.

### **Section two - Creation of a cycleway link between Newfields and Measham Road (Appendix four)**

This section is to be constructed as part of the Peveril Homes development of 99 dwellings off Measham Road Moira. Planning Application 13/00183/FULM. As part of the development the cycleway link will consist of a 2m wide tarmac segregated cycleway with an adjacent 1.8 metre wide pedestrian pavement running along the eastern edge of the development through the public open space. Construction of the first phase of development commenced January 2015.

### **Section three - The creation of a surfaced route between Measham Road and the Canal Towpath at Moira Furnace (Appendix five)**

To complete the link between Hicks Lodge and the canal towpath / Moira Furnace a 3m wide surface will need to be constructed along Public Footpath P36 to the existing surfaced section of the canal towpath.

- 2.3 The creation of section three will be the final piece in linking Hicks Lodge with the Ashby Wolds Heritage trail and all other attractions in the National Forest.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Leicestershire County Council have estimated that section three will cost between £35,000 and £40,000.
- 3.2 The Heart of the Forest Forum - Access and Connectivity Working Group has identified that the development of this section is a priority and in partnership with Leicestershire County Council has requested funding from the District Council for the construction of section three of the Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace cycle route during the 2016/17 financial year.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the District Council reallocates £40,000 previously allocated to the development of route 20 to the the development of the Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace cycle route (section three).

## **4.0 COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

4.1 The community benefits will be as follows:

- the route will link two tourist attractions: Moira Furnace and Hick's Lodge, increasing footfall to both sites and increasing the economic benefit and leisure activities at each site
- increased footfall and income generation will help to sustain employment and the economic viability of both visitor attractions
- cycling provides a range of health and wellbeing related benefits for residents
- the new route supports the Heart of the Forest Access and Connectivity Strategy
- the link from Moira Furnace to Measham Road will replace an unprepared pathway with a new graded surface suitable for cyclists, pedestrians and other bridle path users
- the entrance from Measham Road to the furnace site will be improved visually and the access will be more secure (currently secured by bags of ballast and broken stones)
- the cyclepath from Moira Furnace to Hick's Lodge will be adopted bridleway and the future maintenance will be undertaken by Leicestershire County Council.