



East  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Policy and Resources Committee – 19 January 2015

### Greenway Forward Plan 2014-2018

#### Purpose of report

To ask Members to adopt the Greenway Forward Plan 2014-2018 on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council.

#### Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – The Greenway Forward Plan 2014-18

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Greenway is a programme focusing on the development of attractive and safer walking and cycling routes through East Northamptonshire. The programme broadly follows the Nene Valley corridor with the eventual aim of connecting Wellingborough railway station to Peterborough railway station.
- 1.2 It is being developed in phases and the whole programme will take many years to be realised. Although the main element is to provide a central route through the district, a key part of the programme is to maximise opportunity to connect to other footpaths and bridleways.
- 1.3 The first phase of the Greenway was completed in 2011 and concentrates on the routes from Crown Park in Rushden to Rushden College and then onto The Ferrers Specialist Art College. To date two other phases have been completed as a result of an investment of £1.4m, largely funded from external sponsors and section 106 agreements.
- 1.4 The Greenway Programme Board has produced a Forward Plan (Appendix 1) setting out how the future phases will be developed. This includes the projected costs, potential sponsorship opportunities and maintenance arrangements required for each individual phase.

#### 2.0 Greenway Programme Board

- 2.1 The Greenway Programme Board (the Board) was established when the first phase was being drawn up. Its role is to oversee the development of the phases in the programme, seek and secure funding opportunities and maintain close and effective working arrangements between partners.
- 2.2 Its membership comprises representatives from the key partner organisations: ENC; Northamptonshire County Council / MGWSP Highways Partnership; The Wildlife Trust (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire) and Rockingham Forest Trust. Councillors Sarah Peacock and Philip Stearn represent ENC, with Councillor Peacock chairing the Board.
- 2.3 The Board is actively seeking representatives from Borough Council of Wellingborough and Peterborough City Council. This will help secure the connectivity to key developments in those areas and the railway stations over the life of the programme.

### **3.0 Greenway Forward Plan**

- 3.1 The Greenway Forward Plan (the plan) is set out in Appendix 1. It is seen as a vital tool for both the development of the Greenway and the management of it in the future. By having the plan, the Board can work effectively with developers, land owners and other organisations with an interest in putting the right things in place to make the Greenway effective.
- 3.2 The Board has aimed to make the plan an easy-to-read document. Each phase is set out with all the key information necessary to support negotiations, drawing up agreements and commissioning work as required.
- 3.3 The Board is recommending the partner organisations to adopt the plan so that it receives maximum commitment going forward.

### **4.0 Links with the Destination Nene Valley and other key sites**

- 4.1 The Greenway is at the heart of the Destination Nene Valley (DNV) programme. This is a partnership project led by ENC, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) and Northamptonshire County Council.
- 4.2 DNV aims to encourage active access to the countryside, wildlife sites and heritage locations. These are important factors of the Greenway programme and will increase its use as more phases of the programme are developed.
- 4.3 The plan identifies the major sites of interest and developments taking place in East Northants. Amongst this most notably is the Rushden Lakes retail development expected to commence in 2015. Negotiations are taking place with the developers currently to make sure the Greenway and the retail site offer the maximum opportunity for access to both entities.
- 4.4 The identification and development of plans for the northern parts of the Greenway are more in their infancy. However, there is a unique opportunity to connect to key heritage sites such as Lyveden and Fotheringay and the many rural villages in that area of the district.

### **5.0 Equality and diversity implications**

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report or from the Greenway Forward Plan. The development of the Greenway aims to encourage the widest possible access and use by everyone.

### **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 Permissions will have to be secured with all relevant land owners and the necessary agreements for this and the contractual arrangements with MGWSP, who carry out the construction works relating to each phase, will be drawn up by the Council's provider of legal services as required.
- 6.2 The construction of each phase of the Greenway requires detailed legal agreements to be drawn up and put in place to ensure land ownership rights, environmental requirements, access requirements and matters relating to construction and future maintenance operations are understood and adhered to by all parties concerned.

### **7.0 Risk management**

- 7.1 All construction work on the Greenway is undertaken by MGWSP Northamptonshire Highways. This provision is available through NCC's partnership role in the Greenway. The management of all risks associated with such operations is always bound by the legal agreement with MGWSP.

7.2 Certain phases of the Greenway will cross land and areas with environmental-related designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Where this is applicable, the Board will ensure suitably qualified people are appointed to supervise such works under the direction of the relevant body e.g. Natural England.

## 8.0 Financial implications

8.1 The development and construction of the Greenway relies on sponsorship funding from specific sources. This council's contributions have been drawn from section 106 monies provided by developments taking place in proximity to the Greenway. In future this could also include Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL).

8.2 The release of section 106 funding for future phases will be subject to approval by this Committee at the appropriate times.

8.3 A key part of planning and developing each phase is to identify all maintenance requirements are agreed and in place with the landowners. This is to ensure that all costs associated with maintaining the various sections are clear at the outset with the responsibilities etc. built into the various agreements.

## 9.0 Constitutional implications

9.1 There are no constitutional issues arising from this report or from the development of the Greenway. ENC appointments to the Greenway Board are made at Annual Council.

## 10.0 Corporate outcomes

10.1 The Greenway contributes to the following corporate outcomes:-

**Good Quality of Life - Healthy:** local people are able to participate in active recreation through walking and cycling.

**Good Quality of Life – Prosperous:** the Greenway supports tourism across the district and encourages increased spending in local businesses and attractions.

**Effective partnership working:** by working with other organisations we have secured a network of walking and cycle routes providing access to active recreation.

## 11.0 Recommendation

11.1 Members are recommended to adopt the Greenway Forward Plan 2014 to 2018 on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council.

*(Reason: to ensure East Northamptonshire Council continues to be the lead partner in the development and maintenance of the Greenway programme)*

<b>Legal</b>	<b>Power:</b> Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976				
	Other considerations: Sect. 19 – Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 Sect. 144 – Local Government Act 1972				
<b>Background Papers:</b> None					
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<b>CFO</b> 09.01.2015		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	