



## Policy and Resources Committee - 4 September 2017

### East Northamptonshire Greenway – Phase 5e

#### Purpose of report

This report asks Members to consider and approve the release of funding for the construction of Phase 5e of the East Northamptonshire Greenway.

#### Attachment

Appendix 1 – Indicative map of Phase 5e Greenway

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The East Northamptonshire Greenway (the Greenway) is a programme to develop a series of safe walking and cycling routes across the district. The overall aspiration is to create a linear or 'spinal' route through the Nene Valley, linking Peterborough and Northampton railway stations and connecting with villages and sites of importance.
- 1.2 The Greenway is being implemented through a series of phases. The Greenway Forward Plan (the plan) sets out each phase in detail, with maps, land ownership details, indicative costs for construction and future maintenance requirements. The plan is available on the ENC website (link provided at the end of this report).
- 1.3 Strategic direction for the Greenway is through a Board led by ourselves and supported by Northamptonshire County Council, The Wildlife Trust, Sustrans and Natural England, and has close working links with Destination Nene Valley (DNV). Councillor Sarah Peacock chairs the Greenway Board and Councillor Phil Stearn is also a member.
- 1.4 Funding for each phase comes from a range of sources, including Section 106 (s106) monies, government-led and European funding bodies, environmental and landfill trusts and New Homes Bonus (NHB). All funding is held by us, with this Committee approving its release when phases are ready to go ahead.

#### 2.0 Greenway Phase 5e

- 2.1 Phase 5e (Appendix 1 refers), will offer Irthlingborough residents and others another access point to the Greenway. It will link the south-west part of the town (Ebbw Vale Way) to the main linear route, through the Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows. We hope local people will take advantage of its connectivity opportunities and use it as a healthier way of getting to Rushden Lakes and Stanwick Lakes.
- 2.2 The works for Phase 5e are a combination of constructing a complete new footpath and cycle way in certain parts of the route and just upgrading the surface in other parts. A significant part of Phase 5e runs through the wetland areas of the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). For that reason, The Wildlife Trust, as a partner of the Greenway, will procure and oversee all the works associated with this phase.
- 2.3 The finished surface of the footpath and cycle way will be the same as that on the network of footpaths recently installed around the lakes behind the Rushden Lakes development. This is a crushed stone finish that, when rolled, is both durable and in keeping with the surrounding landscape and environment.

- 2.4 It is proposed to fund the works and the costs associated with The Wildlife Trust managing the project from monies received under the s106 agreement for the approved planning application number EN/08/02282/FUL.
- 2.5 Phase 5e is part of a series of routes forming phase 5, which will link Ditchford Bridge with Stanwick Lakes. The Wildlife Trust has constructed the linear routes 5a and 5b and, as referred to above, the routes around the lakes to the rear of the Rushden Lakes site. Funding for this has come from LxB, as part of their work with The Wildlife Trust, to link Rushden Lakes with the Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows and the Greenway.
- 2.6 Officers are currently exploring options for implementing phase 5c. This route will continue the linear route on to the Stanton Cross development in Wellingborough. This section requires complex feasibility studies and officers will present detailed proposals at a future meeting of this committee.

### **3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 3.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has identified only neutral or positive impacts. The positive impacts are: increased opportunities for accessing the Greenway by users with disabilities; users experiencing rural isolation; and users with socio-economic issues. The Equality Impact Assessment is available as a background document.

### **4.0 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 A formal agreement between ENC and The Wildlife Trust will set out the terms and conditions for the funding. This agreement will cover all aspects of the construction work and the project management requirements and include default and clawback arrangements. Release of the funding will only happen if a signed agreement is in place.

### **5.0 Risk Management**

- 5.1 The Wildlife Trust will oversee and manage the construction works. Specific risks associated with the project will be identified and the mitigation and controls for those risks will be included in the agreement referred to in 4.1 above.

### **6.0 Resource and Financial Implications**

- 6.1 As indicated in 2.4 above, funding for phase 5e is available from the s106 contributions from an Irthlingborough housing development. The total contribution for the Greenway from that development is: £76,563.50. Under the terms of the s106 agreement, this money has to be spent by September 2019.
- 6.2 The costs associated with full construction works on phase 5e (i.e. the areas requiring a complete construction from scratch) and including provision for The Wildlife Trust's costs for managing the works and VAT is: £20,392. It is proposed that a provisional sum of around £10.5K is also made available to facilitate the upgrading of the existing surfaces on phase 5e, making a maximum sum available of **£31,000**.
- 6.3 The rest of this s106 contribution (up to £45,563.50), shall be retained to support further Greenway phases around Irthlingborough, as stipulated by the terms and conditions in the s106 agreement.

### **7.0 Constitutional Implications**

- 7.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

## 8.0 Implications for our Customers

8.1 A range of information about the Greenway is available on our website. A key part of building each phase is installing signage and interpretation boards along the route. These help people navigate their way around the network and illustrate information of interest about the surrounding areas. A separate Greenway project is looking at ways to introduce QR codes on interpretation boards, so people can get up-to-date information on their mobile devices.

## 9.0 Corporate Outcomes

9.1 Delivery of the Greenway contributes to our corporate outcomes as follows:

### Good Quality of Life - Healthy and Prosperous

- Local people will have opportunities to lead healthy and active lifestyles, through improved and increased cycling and walking to facilities, schools, place of work and other attractions.
- Increased tourism and visitor numbers by putting East Northamptonshire and the Greenway on the map, this also contributes to job creation, business growth and helps attract investors.
- Enhanced visitor and resident experience and increased spend in the local area e.g. events such as the Women's Tour taking place.

### Good Value for Money

- Working with appropriate partners to procure the works and partners with the skills and experience to oversee such work that ensures the protection of a sensitive environment, whilst securing value for money.

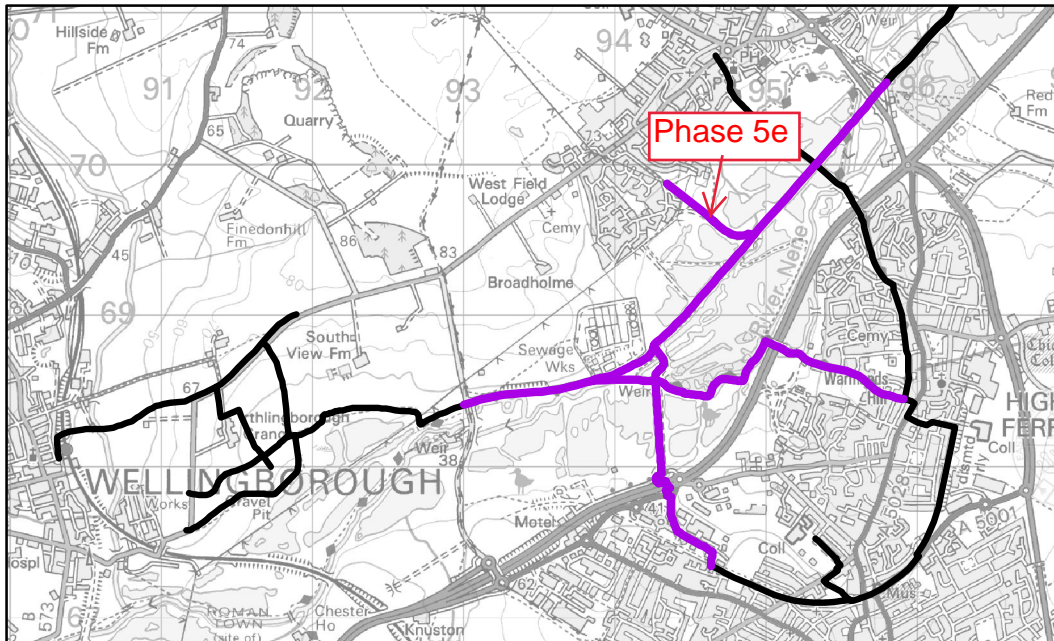
## 11.0 Recommendation

11.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the release of Section 106 monies for Phase 5e of the East Northamptonshire Greenway; the maximum amount available being set at £31,000, as outlined in section 6 of this report.

*Reason - To support the delivery of a green corridor for cycling and walking through East Northamptonshire that provides opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles.*

<b>Legal</b>	<b>Power:</b> Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976				
	Other considerations: None				
<b>Background Papers:</b>	East Northamptonshire Greenway Forward Plan: <a href="https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7666/the_greenway_forward_plan_2016-20">https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7666/the_greenway_forward_plan_2016-20</a>				
<b>Person Originating Report:</b>	Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager ☎ 01832 742244 ✉ mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk				
<b>Date: 15 August 2017</b>					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	



Scale:  
1:50,000

This map is accurate  
to the scale specified  
when reproduced at A6

### Ditchford Bridge to Stanwick Lakes at A6

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### Greenway

 Phase 5

 Other Phases