

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**E 2799****Approval of Cycle Ambition 2 funding year 1
Kennet and Avon Canal towpath improvements and cycle
parking**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Anthony Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport
The Issue	<p>Funding of £655,000 from the Cycle City Ambition Fund 2 (CAF 2) has been awarded to Bath & North East Somerset Council this financial year 2015/16 for improvements to the length of towpath between Bathampton and Sydney Gardens, including widening it to 2.5 metres where space allows, and providing a new improved towpath surface to benefit all users. This project also includes improvements to the path between the towpath and Grosvenor Bridge near London Road. The report seeks approval to include this on the capital programme as a fully approved project.</p> <p>Two public consultation events were held to obtain the views of towpath users as to whether the towpath surface should be improved and, if so, what type of surface improvement should be carried out. In addition CAF2 funding of £40,000 has been awarded this financial year 2015/16 and £48,000 in 2016/17, totalling £88,000, for the provision of cycle parking throughout Bath and North East Somerset, and this report also seeks approval to utilise this CAF2 funding for this purpose and include on the capital programme as a fully approved project.</p>
Decision Date	09 November 2015
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The CAF 2 budget for 2015/16 of £655,000 is utilised for the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath improvements and £88,000 for cycle parking and to include these projects on the 2015/16 capital programme as fully approved.2) Cycle parking is provided throughout the authority, particularly at the main communities and around major trip generators such as high streets and libraries etc.3) The canal towpath between Bathampton and Sydney Gardens is improved, including widening it to 2.5 metres where space allows with it being resurfaced with a tarmac base and tar spray and stone chip surface with appropriate signing as recommended in the CRT document "Better Towpaths for Everyone" and ongoing safety education.4) The section of path between the canal towpath and the railway bridge leading to Grosvenor Bridge is resurfaced with a tarmac base and tar spray and stone chip surface and appropriate signing.
Rationale for	The existing condition of the towpath is reasonably poor, as the dust/

<p>decision</p>	<p>stone path has deteriorated to give an uneven rough surface which is not ideal for pedestrians and could also be a deterrent to cyclists, of which there are significant numbers of both leisure and commuter users.</p> <p>The initial Scoping Environmental Appraisal and preliminary work carried out by the C&RT would indicate that a high durability surface is required based on the high levels of current usage together with anticipated increased cyclist commuter use.</p> <p>The project will support the Council's Community Strategy by improving both Local Transport and the local economy and by promoting healthier (more active) lifestyles. The project will also provide important support for the Core Strategy in promoting less use of the car. Finally the project has an excellent fit with the Joint Local Transport Plan.</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>In December 2014 the government announced new funding for cycling infrastructure projects under the Cycle City Ambition Grant. A West of England bid for this funding stream has proved successful and £19 million has been awarded to the sub-region. This Council's share of this award is £3,880,000.</p> <p>The B&NES Cycle City Ambition Fund 2 project has several elements. This financial year this includes the upgrading of routes along the Kennet & Avon Canal east of Bath and additional cycle parking. The main element of this is to improve the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath in Bath between Sydney Gardens and Bathampton with a budget of £655k.</p> <p>A further budget of £88,000 is provided for improvements to cycle parking throughout the district of Bath and North East Somerset, with £40,000 in this financial year and £48,000 in 2016/17.</p>
<p>Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Parish Council; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>On 28th and 29th August 2015 two public consultation events were held to establish towpath user's views on the towpath improvement proposals. This was done by questionnaire. There was also the opportunity for respondents to complete an on line questionnaire, with all responses being required by the close of the consultation process on 11th September 2015.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>Other towpath surface options considered included a soft path such as grass, paving slabs, crushed stone, tarmac and resin bound surfaces.</p>

Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:	
---	--

Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	
--	--

Signatures of Decision Makers	
--------------------------------------	--

Date of Signature	
--------------------------	--

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision
