



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 15/07/2020

To Cllr Blackham

The report seeks approval to accept £400,000 of funding to make improvements to the Trans Pennine Trail. This involves entering in to a funding agreement with Sustrans to commit to the delivery of improvements at;

- Park Road, Bentley to Toll Bar

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Joe Blackham	Roman Ridge, Bentley, Adwick le Street and Carcroft	Yes

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In March 2019 Sustrans were awarded £22,000,000 in Department for Transport grant funding for National Cycle Network activation projects outside of London. In April 2019 Sustrans invited bids from Local Authorities for grant funding to improve sections of National Cycle Network that needed resurfacing works. Doncaster Council submitted a bid for this funding, selecting areas that are in poor condition and have had little or no investment. This report seeks approval to enter into a funding agreement with Sustrans and subsequently accept 100% grant funding to make improvements along the Trans Pennine Trail, which forms part of the National Cycle Network in Doncaster. The total value of the contract is £400,000

### EXEMPT REPORT

2. Not Exempt

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To accept £400,000 of funding from Sustrans to make improvements to a section of the Trans Pennine Trail identified between Bentley and Toll Bar, by entering into a funding agreement.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. The project has the potential to improve connectivity for Doncaster residents to areas of employment and green, open spaces on bike and by foot. It will make walking and cycling a more attractive option by installing a sealed surface along the routes specified.

The works would be delivered in areas with high levels of deprivation and therefore provide high quality, traffic free cycling and walking infrastructure to the communities that need it the most. The potential improvements in the active travel network could also lead to modal shift resulting in better air quality and a reduction in levels of congestion.

The delivery of the project contains elements which is linked to key themes in the success of 'Get Doncaster Moving'. Physical activity and sport are one of nine transformational programmes within Doncaster Growing Together and will accelerate the progress of Doncaster's 10 year Physical Activity and Sport strategy.

This is reflected within the Get Doncaster Moving programme with Cycling, Walking and Access to Parks and Open Spaces being 3 of the 5 themes. Sharing a project board that will ensure that transformational change is achieved and the potential benefits realised.

Potential interventions funded by the project ensures that residents have access to high quality, safe traffic free routes. The interventions also ensure that we are complicit with the Equality Act by removing barriers to walking and cycling opportunities for people with specific needs.

The improvements would help realise ambitions set out in both Doncaster's cycling and walking strategies. These include;

- Cycling is embedded in all future infrastructure schemes, ensuring a well-connected and safe cycle network that supports a variety of journeys, for work or for pleasure." (Doncaster Cycle Strategy, 2020)
- Develop and enhance recreational walking opportunities in Borough In line with the Doncaster Rights of Way Improvement Plan, explore opportunities to develop and improve recreational walking routes and the Rights of Way network by improving existing routes and creating new routes where appropriate and where the opportunities arise. (Doncaster Walking Strategy, 2018)
- Explore opportunities to increase access to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) Work with partners to investigate and pursue opportunities to develop new links to the TPT in Doncaster and increase accessibility. This includes opportunities to link Thorne to the TPT. (Doncaster Walking Strategy, 2018)
- Ensure appropriate signage and wayfinding along key walking routes Review signage provision along and to key walking routes in Borough such as the Trans Pennine Trail. (Doncaster Walking Strategy, 2018)

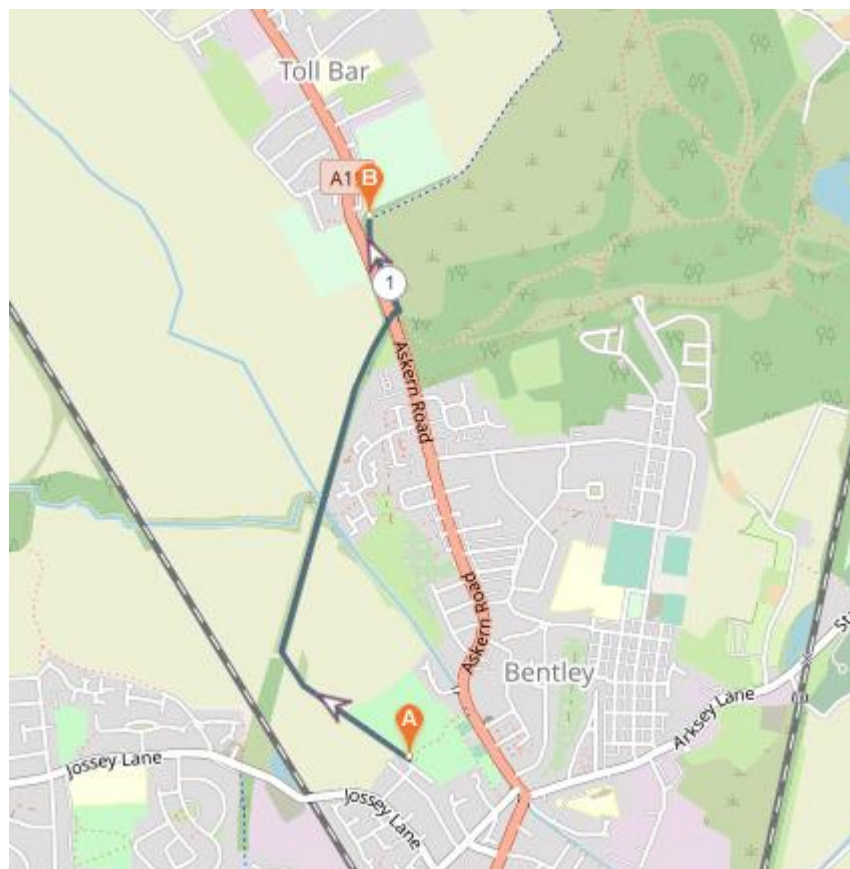
## BACKGROUND

4. The Department for Transport Grant was awarded to Sustrans to improve significant on and off-road stretches of National Cycle Network to improve conditions for walking and cycling around the country.

The route that is proposed to receive improvements in Doncaster is;

- Trans Pennine Trail, Park Road, Bentley to Toll Bar (1.1 km)

The route was selected for improvements in consultation with DMBC Transportation, Public Rights of Way and Sustrans, the custodians of the National cycle Network.



The funding comes after Sustrans produced their “Paths for All” report in 2018 which indicated a cycling network of intermittent quality. There are 25 miles of National Cycle Network which runs through Doncaster, all of which is Route 62. Much of the Trans Pennine Trail in Doncaster was categorised as being Good (18 Miles), with the on road sections scoring Very Poor (7 Miles).

Although the area where improvements are proposed scored Good, due to its level of off-road segregation, the condition of the route needs investment to bring it up to Very Good in order to facilitate more active travel journeys. There is also a section under the A19 bridge which becomes extremely muddy and at times unpassable due to its condition therefore drainage works would help resolve this.

If there is any underspend from the grant funding then we will resurface a short section of Trans Pennine Trail to the west of the borough.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5. Two options have been considered:

**Do something-** Accept the grant funds and secure investment to improve sections of the Trans Pennine Trail in Doncaster

**Do nothing-** Failure to accept the grant funds will result in Doncaster not benefiting from potential investment.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

6. Accepting the grant funds will allow Doncaster to improve sections of the Trans Pennine Trail, enabling communities and residents to consider cycling and walking for travel, potentially improving their health and wellbeing.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li><li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li><li>• Inward Investment</li></ul>	<p>The project has the potential to provide improved sustainable transport access to employment for Doncaster residents.</p> <p>The health benefits to businesses of employees travelling actively to work includes reduced absenteeism and improved productivity.</p> <p>The schemes will connect residents to green open spaces and encourage a greater use of recreational cycling and walking increasing spending along the route.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li><li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li><li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities</li></ul>	<p>Increasing and enhancing the Trans Pennine Trail could lead to an increase in residents walking and cycling. This helps contribute to a healthy and vibrant Doncaster.</p>

	<p>through Physical Activity and Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	<p>Active travel provides opportunities for residents to explore their local area, be active in the outdoors and stay healthy in mind as well as body, helping to boost mood and self-esteem.</p> <p>It helps maintain social interaction and improve community cohesion.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	<p>Physical activity including active travel maintains and improves muscle strength and the ability to balance is crucial in reducing the risk of falling.</p> <p>The works see improvements made to access points allowing people with mobility issues easier access onto the Trans Pennine Trail</p>
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>We will work together to promote the assets that Doncaster has not only to residents but visitors too.</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. The main risk is that works need to be completed by 31/03/2021. To ensure this milestone is met, a detailed delivery program has been developed.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NJD Date 17/6/20]**

10. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do.

Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012) introduced a new duty on Councils in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in their area.

The grant will allow the Council to improve sections of the Trans Pennine Trail in Doncaster which then has the potential to improve connectivity for Doncaster residents to areas of employment and green, open spaces on bike and by foot.

The Council will sign a funding agreement which sets out a number of obligations such as how the money must be spent and when the work is to be completed by. Failure to comply with these obligations may lead to claw back of funding.

The Council must comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 when purchasing goods and services above £189,330. The funding agreement obligates the Council on all other purchases to achieve best value by obtaining quotes where the spend is £500 or more, written tender submissions where the spend is £5000 or more and where the Council has elected to direct award due to a very low value or single supplier, it must keep a written record as to why.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JI Date 12/03/2020]**

11. Sustrans were awarded £22,000,000 in Department for Transport grant funding to improve significant on and off-road stretches of National Cycle Network to improve conditions for walking and cycling around the country.

Doncaster Council bid into this funding and have been awarded grant to the value of £400,000 to deliver such schemes.

A funding agreement will be drawn up with Sustrans, and, although yet to be confirmed, it is likely that the grant will be paid upfront direct to Doncaster from Sustrans.

The schemes are 100% grant funded and will be monitored through the Capital Programme on a quarterly basis. Should any overspend occur resulting from these works, in excess of the grant funding, then this would have to be met from other appropriate grant funding, most likely LTP ITB.

All of the grant must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 by which time all works must be complete, the schedule of works are well within scope to meet this deadline.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DK Date 11/03/2020]**

12. There are no direct HR implications in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 10/03/2020]**

13. There are no technology implications in this report.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials EW Date 12/03/2020 ]**

14. Public Health supports the recommendation to accept the grant funds and investment to improve sections of the Trans Pennine Trail in Doncaster. As noted in the report, the recommended improvements link to the Get Doncaster Moving, Walking and Cycling Strategies, which include ambitions to 'Improve the quality of where people walk' and 'Cycling is embedded within all future infrastructure schemes, ensuring a well-connected and safe cycle network that supports a variety of journeys, for work or pleasure'

Creating safe, attractive and convenient environments can encourage residents to cycle to school, their place of work or shops as well as social cycling thereby improving physical, social and mental wellbeing. Encouraging shorter journeys by walking and cycling can help reduce high levels of road traffic that has a negative impact on air and noise pollution and can isolate communities due to perceived road safety.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials KP Date 13/03/2020]**

15. Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share that protected characteristic

An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Due Regard Statement has been prepared and appended to support this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

16. Detailed internal consultation has been undertaken. Once decision has been signed off, Sustrans will engage the local community.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

17. N/A

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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