

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs |
| Date: | 19 March 2021 |
| Title: | Worthy Down and South Wonston Access Improvements |
| Report From: | Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services |

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Recommendations

1. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs:
 - i) Approves the addition of Worthy Down and South Wonston Access Improvements scheme to the 2021/22 CCBS capital programme at a value of £319,000 funded in full from developer contributions.
 - ii) Approves the project appraisal as set out in the report.
 - iii) Gives authority to procure and spend and enter into the necessary contractual agreements to implement the scheme at a value of £319,000.

Executive Summary

2. The Worthy Down and South Wonston Access Improvements scheme will result in a new section of bridleway and an upgrading of an existing footpath to create a high quality off road walking and cycling route and improvements to sections of two existing restricted byways.
3. The scheme will provide safer links between South Wonston and Worthy Down and safer routes to South Wonston Primary School.
4. The access improvement scheme has a value of £319,000 and is entirely funded by Section 106 contribution from Worthy Down development.

Project Scope

5. An additional 955m section of Bridleway will be added to the Public Rights of Way Network through a dedication between Restricted Byway 703 and Byway Open to All Traffic 12.
6. The legal and physical upgrade of Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2 will allow public cycle access providing 3,000 residents of South Wonston and Worthy Down with 2.6km of good quality off road walk and cycling route.
7. There is currently no ability to legally show the cycle use on the Definitive Map, however we will be asking OS to show it as traffic-free cycle route on OS Explorer and Landranger maps and it will be signed for cycling and walking use on site.
8. The scheme will include wildflower planting and the creation by the landowner of a pond overlooked by a publicly accessible bird hide.
9. This route meet needs specifically identified in Winchester City Council's Cycling Strategy (2012 – actions WC47 and KW01) and responds to local requests for off road cycle access towards Winchester and improved walking and cycling routes to South Wonston Primary School.
10. South Wonston Restricted Byways 730 and 703 will be resurfaced to provide level and improved access to South Wonston Primary School facilitating a Park and Stride initiative. Appendix 1 – map illustrates the routes for improvement.

Other Considerations

11. This access improvement scheme meets the conditions of the Section 106 agreement and policies in the Local Transport Plan 2011-2013 to “to *invest in sustainable transport measures, including walking and cycling infrastructure... to provide a healthy alternative to the car for local short journeys to work, local services and schools*” and the Countryside Access Plan 2015 – 2025 objective “to focus existing and future resources on those routes which provide the most benefit to residents, visitors and the local economy”
12. This project is being delivered by the Countryside Service in partnership with Environment Transport and Economy Transport strategic transport team.

Finance

13. The total budget for the scheme is £319,000 funded entirely through Section 106 contributions from the Worthy Down development.
14. The budget includes £270,000 for capital works and £49,000 for delivery and legal fees.

Consultation

15. Local members have been consulted and are in support of the access improvement scheme.
16. The scheme was consulted on by local community, stakeholders and landowners at events organised by ETE in 2016 and subsequently with South Wonston Parish Council, landowners, local user groups and local councillors and is supported.
17. Hampshire Countryside Access Forum walking, cycling and equestrian representatives have also been consulted.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity: | |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: | |

Other Significant Links

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
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| Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
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| Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents | |
| <p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p> | |
| <u>Document</u> | <u>Location</u> |
| None | |

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimize disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

Equalities Impact Assessment:

EIA Reference number: EIA310179072.

The proposed changes are neutral for many of the protected characteristics with a positive impact on rurality, disability and poverty as free access is improved to provide level route for walkers and cyclists and those who are mobility impaired.

Appendix 1 – Map Worthy Down and South Wonston Access Improvements Scheme

