

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Commercial (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets))	Cabinet	Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Completion of the Penwortham to Howick Green Links Cycle and Pedestrian route

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes

Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Purpose of the Report

1. The award of the contract for the completion of a section of the cycle and pedestrian route from Penwortham to Howick Green as part of the Green links network

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That the contract for the completion of the cycle and pedestrian route from Penwortham Priory Park to Howick as part of the Green links network be awarded to Wade Group for the sum of £314,415 following a tender exercise carried in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules
3. The capital budget for the 'Green Link - Penwortham Holme to Howick' scheme is increased to £314,415 to match the tender price, with a transfer of £64,415 from the unallocated green links budget.

Reasons for recommendations

4. In line with the procurement rules of the Council this report requires Cabinet approval.

Other options considered and rejected

- The other option considered was a value engineered surface to bring back under budget for this particular scheme, much like that adjacent to the River Lostock. Our experience has told us that such a path will need regular maintenance/reconstruction after a large flood event which in the long term is not best value

Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities x
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places x

Background to the report

- The Green links strategy was adopted by the Council in June 2019 with a 4 year programme to deliver fully accessible cycling and walking networks upgrades across the borough.
- Penwortham to Howick – ‘Penwortham Loop’ is a 10km route around Higher Penwortham linking & improving existing routes to create a new accessible leisure route through Priory Park and alongside the River Ribble. The £250K original budget was set in year 1 to upgrade the largely unpaved informal route alongside the Ribble to Howick – With the increase in materials costs experienced over the past two years we now have a budget shortfall.
- The funding shortfall can be funded from the unallocated green links budget.
- It is officer’s recommendation to fund the shortfall and install a robust path; learning for our experiences with the River Lostock, which will be fit for purpose for years to come. This is no doubt the long-term best value option.
- Other elements of this scheme will be improving access from adjacent paths onto this route as well as a full signage and interpretation scheme

The proposal

- The proposal put before Cabinet in this report is a request to award a contract for the completion of a 10km new section of a new cycle and pedestrian route from Penwortham to Howick Green as part of the Green links network across the South Ribble Borough
- The new 10 km green link will be a 3-metre-wide pedestrian and cycle way which will be fully DDA compliant. The scheme will also include full signage on the route and will provide new entrances onto the pathway that connect the new path with exiting paths
- The completed route will provide a fantastic new community asset available and accessible to all sections of the local community. From recreational walkers through to serious runners, from families out for a bike ride to cycle groups meeting on a club day the new route will provide opportunities for all.

15. The new Green links routes are a key part of 'leisure local' which is all about bringing opportunities to take part in recreational and Leisure activity to all local communities across the South Ribble borough.
16. The new Green links route is funded from money allocated within the Capital programme for the Green links network which amounts to an investment of £1.4m over a 4-year period
17. Once approved by Cabinet work to complete the new route will get underway in the following few weeks. The scheme will take 8-10wks to complete with an opening planned for July.

Climate change and air quality

18. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda: Limiting non sustainable forms of transport and limiting or improving air quality.

Equality and diversity

19. The new Pedestrian and Cycle route will be fully DDA compliant and be accessible for people with mobility issues which make a positive contribution to Equality and Diversity issues

Risk

20. There is a full Risk assessment as part of the overall Green links project. In addition, each individual Scheme has a full risk assessment as part of the project.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

21. The capital programme includes a budget of £250k for this scheme. The tender price is above this estimate and therefore a budget increase is required in order to complete the work. This can be funded by a virement of £64k from the unallocated green links budget.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

22. An appropriate procure exercise has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract procedure rules. Formal contract documentation will be drawn up

Background documents

There are no background documents to for this report

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report

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