

Delegated Decision

21 December 2021

Grant Funding Agreement – National Cycling Network Route 1



Report of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Councillors Chris Hood, Ivan Cochrane,

Cycling Champion Councillor Charlie Kay

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Councillor Liz Scott

Electoral division(s) affected:

Shotton and South Hetton

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To approve the formal Sealing of the Sub Grant Funding Agreement from Sustrans Limited relating to National Cycling Network Route 1 (South Hetton to Pesspool Lane).

Executive summary

- 2 Sustrans Limited have approved sub grant funding to Durham County Council of £247,163.00 from the Department for Transport's grant to develop the National Cycling Network (NCN) through a series of schemes across the country, including a section of NCN1 in County Durham.

Recommendation(s)

- 3 To note and authorise for sealing.

Background

- 4 This funding allocation follows previous funding from Sustrans to improve three other sections of National Cycling Network Route 1. The funding was secured from Department for Transport by Sustrans following a national review of the condition of the route which identified key sections in need of investment. This is the fourth section of NCN1 to receive funding in County Durham.
- 5 The project involves ecological improvements, surface upgrade, culvert repair, land transfer to Durham County Council (for maintenance by the Countryside Service), signage and access controls between South Hetton (A182) and Pesspool Lane, Haswell.

- 6 The section to be improved with the grant funding sits between two ongoing schemes which, on completion, will provide a better facility between Haswell, South Hetton, Jade (with links to Dalton Park) and Dawdon (with links to Seaham) for all users.

Background papers

-) Grant Funding Agreement relating to National Cycling Network 1.

Main implications

- 7 £247,163.00 grant funding awarded.

Conclusion

- 8 The grant funding will have a transformative effect on a one mile section of National Cycling Network Route 1 without which the route will fall into further disrepair. The funding will enable use by a wider audience and the scheme connects to other improvement schemes at either end which will, on completion, provide a high quality five miles route linking towns and villages with key destinations.
- 9 The report recommends that the sub grant funding is approved and sealed.

Author

Dave Wafer

Tel: 03000 263577

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Sub Grant Funding Agreement.

Finance

£247,163.00 grant funding awarded.

Consultation

Community engagement is ongoing. Local Members have been informed about the improvements to NCN1. Wider public consultation is not required as part of the grant funding.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Wider consultation and engagement has been undertaken by Sustrans and through updates to local members, and through promotion and press releases. The scheme will enable a wider usership of the route through a wider, surfaced path and signage. The scheme adheres to Local Transport Note 1/20 and Sustrans design requirements.

The wider project also sets out to improve connections between towns and villages to enable improved accessibility to jobs, education and retail.

Climate Change

The scheme will provide a more usable and attractive path for people to walk, run, cycle as well as use prams and wheelchairs and in doing so reduce the number of vehicles using the equivalent road route.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

As part of the wider scheme, Sustrans and Durham County Council will work with Durham Constabulary to address anti-social behaviour on the route. Durham County Council are working with Sustrans on their community engagement activities.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Delivery of the scheme as intended and within timescales.

Procurement

Scheme delivered internally by Highways Operations with a potential requirement for procurement of construction materials.