

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL



DATE	3 rd September 2008
PORTFOLIO	Environment, Leisure and Culture, and Resources
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Padiham Linear Park

PURPOSE

1. To secure the Executive's support for the Padiham Linear Park Project.
2. To recommend that the Full Council establish a capital budget to enable the project to proceed.
3. To seek delegated authority to enter into agreement with Lancashire County Council and Sustrans to offer licences to undertake work on Borough Council land, and agree a 15-year lease where such land is to be included as part of the scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the Full Council be recommended to establish a capital budget of £23,000 in 2008/09 and £20,973 in 2009/10 to finance the Borough Council's contribution to the Padiham Linear Park Project.
5. That £2,000 of this capital budget be allocated in the current financial year (2008/09) as a contribution to Sustrans for their administrative and legal costs incurred in acquiring the former rail line site from Network Rail
6. That the Head of Property Consultancy be authorised to enter into agreement with Lancashire County Council and Sustrans to offer licences to undertake work on Borough Council land and agree a 15-year lease where council land is to be included as part of the scheme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

7. The principal funders of the scheme, Lancashire County Council and the North West Development Agency, require the assurance of commitment from Burnley BC, both in-principle and financial to enable the deliverability of the scheme.
8. Officers need approval to negotiate the lease of Borough Council land to LCC.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

9. In 2004 three schemes and a budget of £48,973 remained outstanding from the Padiham Capital Allocation budget because they were linked to other ongoing initiatives. A report to Executive on the 6th August 2004 summarised these projects – Skate Park, Market Improvements and Padiham Linear Park. It was resolved that a capital receipt of £48,973 be earmarked as follows:
 - Skate Park £5,000
 - Padiham Linear Park £43,973 (including £2,000 in 2004/5 as a contribution to Sustrans for work to acquire the land)
10. The £5,000 reserve budget for the Skate Park improvements should be retained and used to help support the development of facilities for children and young people within the Padiham Memorial Park Heritage Lottery programme, likely to commence in 2010 if successful.
11. As detailed in the August 2004 report the Padiham Linear Park project has been included in Lancashire County Council's REMADE (Derelict Land Reclamation) programme funded by the North West Development Agency. Sustrans (the sustainable transport charity) is also a key partner in the project and is currently in the process of acquiring the freehold for the Padiham section of the railway line from Network Rail.
12. Once completed, the linear park will form part of the National Cycleway Network that Sustrans is responsible for promoting. To date a licence has been agreed to allow the project to proceed, prior to the full transfer of the land.

The Current Situation

13. The contribution to Sustrans approved in 2004/5 has not been paid because Sustrans wanted to ensure that agreement to acquire the site had been reached before payment was made. Prior to entering into negotiations, Network Rail required that planning approval be sought for the proposal. This was subsequently granted in May 2005. The negotiations to acquire the site have been lengthy, but agreement has now been reached and the contribution to Sustrans can now be made.
14. Lancashire County Council's REMADE project team have continued to develop the project in close liaison with officers from Burnley Council's Green Spaces and Amenities Unit and Planning and Environment Services.
15. A stakeholders group, which includes local representatives and interest groups, has also been established to steer the project. A public consultation event took place at Padiham Town Hall in December 2007 and further targeted consultation was held with residents in April 2008.
16. Following consultation, detailed design options are currently being produced to satisfy the conditions of the original planning permission. Vegetation clearance along the track bed and close to some structures took place in April 2008 and the existing track was lifted in May 2008. It is currently envisaged that work on creating the greenway

will commence by September 2008.

17. In order to create key access points onto the proposed linear park, Burnley Borough Council-owned land at Padiham Memorial Park, to the rear of Padiham Leisure Centre, Hambledon Street, Low Bank and Eton Close is to be included as part of the REMADE scheme. A plan showing these sites and the current design for the proposed access points is attached as appendix 1.
18. An initial meeting has been held with Lancashire County Council to discuss these areas. If approval is given a licence will be offered allowing LCC to undertake the work on Borough Council land and a 15-year lease will be negotiated with LCC for the longer-term liabilities. A 15-year lease is being suggested due to the availability of revenue funding for the scheme.
19. LCC will retain full responsibility for up-keep, maintenance and liability issues where the scheme is located on Borough Council-owned land. Once the freehold has been secured by Sustrans it would then take on this liability from LCC.
20. The land at Hambledon Street has also been identified as an area for a potential compound park and the area adjacent to Eton Close for the storage of materials on a temporary basis during the construction period for the linear park. Again a licence would be offered for this work

Funding

21.

Funding Source	Amount
NWDA	£1.22M
BIG Lottery Connect 2 funding	£150,000
Lancashire County Council Transport Plan	£150,000
BBC Capital Programme	£43,973 (split £23,000 2008/9 and £20,973 2009/10)
Approximate Project Costs	£1.564m

22. Padiham Linear Park is part of a wider REMADE scheme to create a greenway along the length of the former Great Harwood to Burnley railway. A total of £1.51M has now been secured by REMADE from the Northwest Regional Development Agency to progress the scheme. £1.22M of this has been allocated towards works to create the greenway.
23. Before funding for the scheme can be released, both LCC and NWDA require assurances that land ownership and maintenance agreements can be progressed.
24. In addition to the REMADE funding, Padiham Linear Park has been included in a successful Sustrans bid for £50million to the Living Landmarks Lottery. The bid, entitled Connect 2 is made up of 80 projects throughout the country. An additional £300,000 has been secured towards improving greenway links between Burnley and Padiham, £150,000 of which is to be used directly towards the linear park project.
25. A total of £150,000 towards the linear park scheme has also been provisionally

allocated from Lancashire County Council's Local Transport Plan. Burnley Council's contribution under the Padiham Capital allocation signals the Council's commitment to the project and will help to secure this significant amount of investment for the Padiham Linear Park scheme.

26. The scheme will also help to strengthen Green Spaces & Amenities position regarding the current application process to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Memorial Park. The linear park will help to create accessible links into Memorial Park from the former railway and will form an integral part in the overall development of the park and the bid to HLF. There will also be improved access to the wider town via this important green route, particularly from areas that currently have a lack of green space provision.
27. Discussions are currently underway regarding the maintenance of the green infrastructure, (grass trees etc) of the Linear Park after its completion. Revenue funding will be available for 15 years for this. Green Spaces & Amenities have expressed an interest in undertaking this work, which would be dependant on the availability of sufficient funding. This would be reviewed on an annual basis.
28. The existing team based in Padiham would undertake the maintenance work to the Linear Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

29. The Borough Council's contribution of £43,973 comprises £23,000 from the 2008/09 Capital Programme, together with a commitment on the 2009/10 Capital Programme of £20,973. It can be funded from ear-marked capital receipts.
30. For REMADE to fund the scheme it will be necessary for other match funding from sources including Sustrans and Lancashire County Council (Local Transport Plan) to be in place. Detailed costs of the project will be established through the design process but the overall cost of the scheme is likely to be in the region of £1.8M.
31. Green infrastructure maintenance work undertaken will be fully funded by LCC

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

32. Burnley Local Plan Second Review Policies TM6&14 – Walking and Horse Riding in the Countryside – identifies the Padiham Rail Line as a “Greenway” route and as a Rapid Transit “guided bus” route. The guided bus route is very much a long-term project but the creation of the greenway offers a positive use of the site in the meantime. There could be scope for accommodating the greenway alongside the guided bus route if it is ever implemented.
33. Padiham Area Action Plan Preferred Option identifies the route as a proposed Linear Park and there is public expectation locally that the linear park project is developed.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

34. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

35. File B050J Padiham Capital Allocation
File B092J Padiham Linear Park
Planning Application: 2005/0229
Padiham Area Action Plan Issues and Options Report.
File B197E REMADE programme
Memorial Park Heritage Lottery Submission Bid

FURTHER INFORMATION

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[Appx \(i\)](#)

[Appx \(ii\)](#)

[Appx \(iii\)](#)