

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Cllr Pat Hackett

KEY DECISION YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: Regeneration & Growth – Alan Evans

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: All

WARDS AFFECTED: All

**SUBJECT: LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING
INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PHASE 1: GREEN TRAVEL CORRIDORS
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SUD) LEASOWE TO SEACOMBE
FERRY**

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 The Leader of the Council is recommended to:

- (i) authorise the Director of Governance and Assurance to enter into a grant funding agreement to accept a £1.22 million funding package from the Combined Authority to deliver a 3.7km strategic cycle route from Leasowe to Seacombe Ferry as part of Phase 1 of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Green Travel Corridors.
- (ii) authorise the Director of Governance and Assurance to expand the boundary of the adopted highway to include land owned by private land holders (Wirral Waters Land no 1 Ltd, Peel Land Intermediate Ltd, Peel Land and Property Group Management Ltd and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company Ltd – “the PEEL Companies”) increasing the area covered under the Council’s maintenance obligations.
- (iii) authorise the Director of Governance and Assurance to continue negotiation and, subject to the project budget, agree acquisition of / rights over land currently owned by ER Squibb & Sons Ltd and Network Rail by the most appropriate means. Furthermore, that the Director of Governance and Assurance be authorised to advise on, negotiate and agree any further rights over land for any anomalies hitherto unknown.
- (iv) authorise the Director of Governance and Assurance to draw up and complete any legal agreements deemed necessary to ensure the Council has sufficient legal interest in land for the purpose of the scheme.
- (v) authorise the Director of Delivery to undertake the appropriate consultation process.

- (vi) authorise the Director of Delivery to undertake the appropriate procurement process and appoint external contractors to undertake the necessary highway work.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The LCWIP is a City region wide plan to develop a comprehensive cycling and walking network. Development of an LCWIP is a requirement of the 2015 Infrastructure Act. Phase 1 of LCWIP forms the Sustainable Urban Development Green Travel Corridors package. The Wirral element of LCR LCWIP Phase 1 (Leasowe to Seacombe Ferry) will improve accessibility for residents to Wirral Waters and increase the use of active sustainable travel modes therefore reducing the reliance on the private car.
- 2.2 The 3.7km route will link Moreton and Leasowe to Wirral Waters and Seacombe Ferry by upgrading current routes along the River Birket and then utilising the existing routes at Bidston Moss. The route will also include improvements to the Wirral Waters site along Wallasey Bridge Road and Beaufort Road. The strategic cycle route will improve accessibility for residents to Wirral Waters and provide improved connectivity from east to west across the Borough.
- 2.3 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) will be the accountable body for the overall LCR wide LCWIP programme. The Council are required to enter into a grant funding agreement to accept and deliver the Wirral element of the package. The funding package route totals £1.22 million with £611,434 being provided by ERDF and a further £611,434, subject to business case approval, from the LCR Transforming Cities Fund.
- 2.4 The construction of the walking and cycle route will expand the adopted highway as part of the route, along Wallasey Bridge Road and Beaufort Road, falls within land owned by the Peel Companies. This has been agreed with Peel Holdings Land and Property but confirmation is being sought from the Peel companies that own the land and prior to works being commenced a legal agreement will be put in place that this will become part of the adopted highway once completed with the maintenance liability falling to the Council. Similar agreements with Peel Holdings Land and Property have been undertaken on the Dock Road for the North Bank developments.
- 2.5 The route includes some sections of the routes that are not within the Council's or Peel Companies ownership. Specifically, the corner of Wallasey Bridge Road and Beaufort Road which is owned by Network Rail and the section of the current path on the bank of the River Birket which runs alongside the Squibb's site, is still owned by ER Squibb and Sons Ltd. The Council is currently in negotiation for both locations, but mitigation measures have been put in place to reduce the Council's exposure to risk should these negotiations not be successful.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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| Signed:  Executive Member: Cllr. Pat Hackett Date: 5/2/20 Also present: | Signed:  Chief Officer: Alan Evans Date: 5/2/20 |
| Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s): | |

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Julie Barnes
Date: 6th January 2020

Date of Publication:
Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

