

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

1 APRIL 2021

PLACES TO RIDE APPLICATION FUNDING

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on our application for British Cycling grant funding for a new recreational cycling scheme at Thoresby Vale, Edwinstowe, and to recommend that the scheme be added to the Capital Programme.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Members of the Economic Development Committee previously agreed to develop and submit an application to Sport England / British Cycling for potential grant funding for a proposed community cycling scheme that will form part of the Thoresby Vale residential-led regeneration scheme on the 181 Ha former Thoresby Colliery site.
- 2.2 Guided by an allocated Investment Manager on behalf of Sport England and a Cycling Delivery Manager at British Cycling, Officers worked with our partners at Harworth Group PLC to develop and submit a two-stage application for grant funding for the proposed scheme with an estimated value of £1.323m. We requested the maximum amount of British Cycling grant funding of £150,000 towards it.
- 2.3 The family-oriented, inclusive facility aligns clearly with our objective in the Community Plan 2020-23 to “Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents”. The scheme also matches key aims of both the Nottinghamshire County Council’s Visitor Economy Strategy and the Newark & Sherwood District Council Visitor Economy Strategy to “develop Edwinstowe/Forest Corner as a major visitor hub for Sherwood Forest” and deliver “an engaging and distinctive green and active countryside experience” appealing to a growing market seeking “active, family-friendly pursuits”. The proposed scheme will complement the developing Sherwood Forest offer of connecting people with the natural environment and the historic forest landscape, helping to improve the experience for residents and visitors.
- 2.4 We also engaged with Active Notts and they are publicly supporting the proposed scheme because it clearly aligns with their vision “to make physical activity the norm for people who live and work in our communities by ensuring everyone can easily take part, volunteer and engage in sport and activity as part of their everyday life”. The proposed scheme site is adjacent to Ollerton & Boughton, which is one of Active Notts’ priority areas as one of the most deprived areas in the country. Health deprivation data for the area in which the site is to be located shows that it is within the lowest half and nearby Ollerton is within the lowest 20%. Sport England’s Active Lives Survey shows that the development area is within the second lowest quintile (25.8%), and Ollerton & Boughton is within the first lowest quintile (30.6%) for the number of people (16 years+) who are currently physically inactive.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 On 3 March 2021 the Council received an initial notification from Sport England / British Cycling regarding the funding. At the time of writing we are unable to confirm publicly details of any grant award or its likely total value. Further information in this regard is provided in the Exempt Appendix. It is hoped and expected that a formal announcement can be made at the meeting itself.

3.2 At the meeting of the Economic Development Committee on 13 January 2021, Members agreed that:

‘Should our application be successful, a recommendation be made to Policy & Finance Committee to add the scheme to the Capital Programme’.

3.3 An update was presented to the meeting of the Economic Development Committee on 24 March 2021 regarding the funding notification from Sport England / British Cycling.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 A key feature of the proposed scheme is that it will be fully accessible and inclusive in line with its purpose to promote recreational cycling for all.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 In developing the scheme, we will consider potential links with the forthcoming 5G ‘Connected Forest’ hubs at Thoresby Vale and Forest Corner.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/8920)

6.1 These are set out in the exempt appendix to the report, given any public announcement about any award is embargoed.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

That subject to funding being confirmed, the project be added to the Council’s Capital Programme for delivery.

Reason for Recommendation

To allow Members to note progress towards securing grant funding for the project.

Background Papers

NI.

For further information please contact Richard Huthwaite, Business Manager - Tourism on 07866 008748.

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