

## **URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION**

### **Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency**

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Given the current emergency in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic and the decision taken to suspend committee meetings while social distancing measures continue, the urgency decision provision under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution has been widened to extend the consultation to include the Leaders of all the political groups on the Council.

**Subject:** British Cycling Grant Funding Application

**Appropriate Committee:** Economic Development

**Details of Item** (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

Recommendation that Newark and Sherwood District Council submits an expression of interest for £750,000 of British Cycling Grant Funding for a new recreational cycling facility for all at Thoresby Vale, Edwinstowe.

If successful, this grant will be fully match-funded by Harworth Group PLC with direct investment, land allocation and benefit in kind. Although applications can be submitted at any time and decisions will be made every 12 weeks, we understand the expressions of interest window may close soon and we recommend taking action now in order not to miss a valuable opportunity to bid.

With the British Cycling Grant Funding and match-funding by Harworth Group PLC, the project will be cost neutral for the Council.

The proposed cycling facility will form part of the regionally significant Thoresby Vale residential-led regeneration scheme on the 181 Ha former Thoresby Colliery site within Sherwood Forest. As a family-oriented, inclusive facility, the project matches key aims of both the Nottinghamshire County Council Visitor Economy Strategy and the Newark & Sherwood District Council Tourism 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. Together with other development plans for Thoresby Vale, including a new primary school, country park, leisure employment space, zip

wire and the highest viewpoint for miles around, the cycling hub will help to support economically the existing services and facilities in Edwinstowe and Ollerton.

The scheme will be predominantly a family recreational (mass market) facility to encourage new people to take up cycling. It will incorporate a number of connected facilities including: recreational cycling (as well as walking and running) trails of varying levels; cycle hire; café; learn-to-ride area delivering many aspects of the British Cycling Ready Set Ride programme; 'pump' / play track; skills area. However, the site also lends itself to some challenging off-road cycling, due to the gradients, which would allow for gravity style events (downhill or dual slalom events). This would place the facility as the only one in the East Midlands (according to British Cycling representatives) with the ability to offer this type of cycling. Two specialist disability cycling experts have also been engaged to ensure that the cycling provision is genuinely accessible for all.

As well as a cycling provision, it is envisaged that the heritage Workshop building will accommodate complementary uses such as bouldering/climbing wall for all abilities and a collection point for the zip wire. The project will also create a very friendly, unintimidating social gathering environment for friends and families of all ages and abilities with opportunities for people to be active and become involved in volunteering.

The rest of the site will aspire to embed active travel and Sport England will be engaged to encompass active design principles wherever possible.

Should the phase one expression of interest to British Cycling be successful, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Harworth Group will work together with stakeholders on a business plan to identify the optimum operating model for the scheme.

### **Decision**

Agreement by all Members to submit the Expression of Interest

### **Members Consulted:**

Councillor David Lloyd	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Councillor Keith Girling	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Councillor Paul Peacock	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Councillor Peter Harris	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Councillor Gill Dawn	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020

Signed



Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020