



CABINET:

8 SEPTEMBER 2020

Report of: Corporate Director of Place and Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Evans

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SUBJECT: USE OF S106 FUNDS ON THE EDGE HILL CYCLE LINK

Wards affected: Derby

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authorisation to spend Section 106 funds on the next phase of the Edge Hill Cycle Link.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- 2.1 To agree the use of £103,860 of S106 monies from planning permission 2009/1052/FUL on the improved provision for cycling and walking access between Ormskirk town centre and Edge Hill University on Ruff Lane and St Helens Road and the junction of these roads with Park Road as outlined in this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND & PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Edge Hill Cycle Link has been a long-held aspiration of this Council and Lancashire County Council (LCC) for some years now, with the recently completed improvements to the path between the rail and bus station in Ormskirk providing the first phase in delivering the cycle link. Officers have been working with LCC colleagues to work-up plans for the remainder of the cycle link, which will travel across the bus station site, along St Helens Road and then along Ruff Lane, and plans for the next phase of delivery have now been prepared and can be delivered by LCC subject to agreement of this Council to spend a further tranche of S106 monies on the next phase.

- 3.2 The next phase will involve changes to the junction of St Helens Road / Ruff Lane / Park Road to introduce improved footpaths, dedicated cycle lanes and a dedicated phase on the traffic signals to allow bicycles to cross from Ruff Lane to the western (north-bound) side of St Helens Road. This will involve making Ruff Lane one-way between Knowsley Road and St Helens Road for vehicles and so preventing access for vehicles onto Ruff Lane from the junction of St Helens Road / Ruff Lane / Park Road. The Plan at Appendix A shows the improvements proposed.
- 3.3 This phase of the cycle link will cost in the region of £240,000 and can be delivered by LCC this financial year (i.e. by 31st March 2021).
- 3.4 Overall, the Edge Hill Cycle Link is being funded by a combination of S106 monies secured from developments at Edge Hill University (which must be used to improve accessibility to the university campus by means other than the private car) and LCC Local Transport Plan funding. It is proposed that this phase be funded through £103,860 of S106 monies from planning permission 2009/1052/FUL, with the remaining costs being met from LCC's Local Transport Plan funding.
- 3.5 The S106 funding has been earmarked for use on the Edge Hill Cycle Link for some time, but given the passage of time since the funding was first earmarked, and the slightly different proposals being put forward now, the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 above seeks Cabinet's approval of the use of the Section 106 funds to be put towards this phase of the Edge Hill Cycle Link and so improve connectivity to the university campus by walking and cycling.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The promotion of walking and cycling will have positive sustainability implications for Ormskirk and West Lancashire, encouraging travel to the Edge Hill University campus by means other than the private car, will reduce congestion, improve air quality and encourage a more active lifestyle for those travelling to/from the University.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Edge Hill Cycle Link proposals will be funded through a combination of Section 106 funding (as per the recommendation at 2.1 above) and Local Transport Plan funding from LCC.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There is limited risk associated for the Council with a decision in line with the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 above given it is utilising Section 106 monies that the Council is already in receipt of and is facilitating a scheme that will be delivered by LCC, who are a reliable public sector delivery partner with a great deal of experience of managing such projects. The project will also reinforce the

Council's image as a "green" Council committed to delivery improvements to walking and cycling, but also making connections that enhance the economy of the borough (in this case in relation to connections between Ormskirk Town Centre and Edge Hill University).

- 6.2 However, there is a risk for the Council should no decision be made on the use of these specific S106 funds or should it be decided not to utilise them on this project, as there is a requirement within the Section 106 Agreement for planning permission 2009/1052/FUL that the monies must be "expended or otherwise committed" for a use in line with that specified in the agreement within 10 years of the date when the monies were received, which was in December 2010. As such, the agreement of Cabinet on the use of these S106 monies is required in September in order to ensure that the project can be committed by LCC on their programme of works for the remainder of this financial year. If such a "commitment" is not demonstrable by December 2020, under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, the S106 monies would need to be passed back to Edge Hill University.

7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The promotion of walking and cycling through the Edge Hill Cycle Link will have positive health and wellbeing implications for those that use it and, indirectly, by reducing the number of private vehicles using the borough's roads, thus improving air quality.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

1. Edge Hill Cycle Link improvements - junction of St Helens Road / Ruff Lane / Park Road
2. Equality Impact Assessment