

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**3 November 2015**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**ILKESTON GATEWAY (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval to the allocation of funding from within existing 2015-16 Local Transport Plan budgets to secure external funding and enable delivery of a specific project for Ilkeston Gateway, upgrading the Erewash Canal towpath.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At its meeting of 28 July 2015, Cabinet considered a report into Ilkeston Rail Station, which is now proceeding towards construction and expected to be open during 2016. The Station will, on its own, offer significant transport and regeneration benefits to the town. As the proposals have progressed, it has become regarded as the focal point of a broader package of measures to encourage travel alternatives and assist Ilkeston in accommodating the impacts of additional development.

‘Ilkeston Gateway’, as a concept, has been developed by Erewash Borough Council into a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), adopted in March 2015, and includes a number of key ‘access and connectivity improvement projects’. The Borough Council has already committed resources to the appointment of a Travel Plan Officer to work with local schools, businesses and communities to encourage use of the planned infrastructure.

Some of the projects contained within the SPD will now be delivered through the changes in station design already reported to Cabinet; those ranked in the SPD as first and second in importance constitute taxi, cycling and walking facilities accessed from Station Road and surface access to the northbound platform, both of which are now incorporated within the station layout. Other improvements identified within the SPD will need to be delivered separately and over a longer term, through a range of resources including developer contributions. These include measures within the highway, notably an aspiration to reduce traffic on Coronation Road and Station Road, but also a number of improvements to walking and cycling networks. One of these is to improve the Erewash Canal towpath and further enhance its role as an important green infrastructure asset, from Cotmanhay in the north to Larklands in the south of Ilkeston. This will involve a range of measures

including re-surfacing, demarcation, safety enhancements and the undertaking of associated works, such as bank strengthening. It would also improve local connectivity to the potential opening of the iconic Bennerley Viaduct as a walking and cycling route, which is being pursued separately, with Sustrans leading bids for funding.

The Canal and Rivers Trust has supplied monitoring information for other locations on its local network, which show good levels of usage commensurate with other off-road infrastructure around the County in both urban and rural locations.

## **Resources**

Resources to assist the delivery of Ilkeston Gateway have already been recognised by the County Council. The Economy, Transport and Environment Department Service Plan 2015-16, approved by Cabinet on 24 March 2015, includes a budget of £0.350m for the project. It has also, provisionally, been allocated £1.35m of grant funding from a Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Sustainable Travel (Growth Deal) programme. This funding is available from 2016-17 to 2018-19 and will only be confirmed as part of the annual Growth Deal grant offer to D2N2. It will also be necessary for individual projects to pass through D2N2's Assurance Framework and be considered by its Infrastructure and Investment Board (IIB) in order to receive firm offers of funding. The budget for Ilkeston Gateway cannot, therefore, be regarded as certain at this stage, although there is good reason to be confident in its availability.

Cabinet is being asked to consider issues around the Gateway at this point because of other external funding which is available at the present time, but not necessarily in future years. The Canal and Rivers Trust, which has already undertaken significant enabling work on the Erewash Canal towpath, is able to commit £0.150m of further resources from its 2015-16 budgets. This would contribute to a towpath upgrade between Awsworth Road and Cotmanhay and Potter's Lock, Ilkeston, providing a substantial proportion of the SPD project. It would provide a high-standard, off-road route from Cotmanhay, linking to connections to the Station and town centre. The total cost of this has been established through engagement of a contractor and is £0.5m. It can therefore proceed if the County Council made available its current commitment of £0.350m. The County Council's contribution would be fixed and, in exchange for this, the Canal and Rivers Trust would commit to delivery of the specified scheme (and would retain responsibility for future maintenance of the asset). Its contractor is procured through its National Engineering and Construction Contract 2015-2021, selected from six applicants following a pre-qualification process, in accordance with the requirements of the OJEU Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006.

It is, therefore, recommended that Cabinet agrees to the allocation of the existing budget for Ilkeston Gateway of £0.350m in 2015-16 Local Transport

Plan programmes to the project described above and delivered by the Canal and Rivers Trust. Other projects with Ilkeston Gateway will need to be the subject of further reports as and when D2N2 Growth Deal funding is confirmed.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The approved Economy, Transport and Environment Department's Service Plan 2015-16 includes a budget of £0.350m (Scheme 02 02 02) as a local contribution to the Ilkeston Gateway project.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Should Cabinet agree to the recommendation of this report, the Director of Legal Services will advise in relation to agreements with the Canal and Rivers Trust over the release of funding in exchange for commitment to deliver the scheme.

(5) **Property Considerations** All land and property affected by the proposed construction project falls within the ownership or control of the Canal and Rivers Trust.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Exempt. Officer contact details - Jim Seymour, extension 38557.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet agrees to the allocation of £0.350m from existing 2015-16 Local Transport Plan budgets to the Canal and Rivers Trust for the upgrading of the Erewash Canal towpath.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**