

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**

**3 December 2013**

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WAY FUNDING AND DELIVERY (JOBS,  
ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek Cabinet approval to accept external grant funding and for this funding to be combined with Local Transport Plan funding, and the Capital Programme 2013/2014 to be amended accordingly in respect of the Archaeological Way. The report also seeks permission to conclude land ownership negotiations with Chatsworth Estates and Nal Plant Ltd.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Highways and Transport on 3 June 2010 (Minute No. 103/10 refers), support was given, in principle, for the redevelopment of the Archaeological Way as part of Limestone Journeys and to commit Officer time to progress the project, subject to securing Heritage Lottery funding.

In September 2010, Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership secured £1.9 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to carry out a programme of environmental and community projects within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Landscape character area in Derbyshire. Approval was given by the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport, on 9 August 2011, for Derbyshire County Council and Bolsover Countryside Partnership to sign the Limestone Journeys Joint Working Agreement (Minute No.156/11 refers).

The Archaeological Way scheme is the largest single project within Limestone Journeys and it is being delivered by the Countryside Service with the support of the Bolsover Countryside Partnership. Outline plans have been developed to create an 11 mile (18.5 km) walking and cycling trail between Pleasley Pit Country Park and Creswell Crags. The proposal is aligned with the strategic developments and key principles identified within the East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, adopted by Derbyshire County Council.

## Public

Detailed engineering designs and planning permissions are now in place to enable 5.4km of the route between South Shirebrook and Poulter Country Park to be delivered (See Map 1 attached to Appendix 1). This will comprise:

- Shirebrook Town Route (urban green space and highways schemes) AW18-24.
- Langwith Branch Line (reclamation of a disused railway line) AW25-28.
- Poulter Country Park Route (entrance, parking improvements and path upgrades) AW29c.

A minor realignment of Whaley Road, at the entrance to Poulter Country Park, will also be incorporated into the scheme if feasible within the overall project budget, in order to extend benefits of the route to horse riders.

Funding is now identified to secure the delivery of these schemes, comprised of:

**Limestone Journeys (Heritage Lottery Fund – HLF)** The Authority has been offered £95,900 of HLF grant through Limestone Journeys. Cabinet approval is sought to accept this funding and to add it to the 2013/2014 Capital Programme. Subject to the HLF annual business plan approvals process for the wider Limestone Journeys scheme, this will be confirmed in December 2013.

**Local Transport Plan (LTP)** Expenditure of £50,000 from the 2013/2014 LTP allocation was approved at the Cabinet Meeting on 26 March 2013. In addition, approval is sought to allocate a further £118,000 from LTP 2013/2014 and £89,446 from LTP 2011/2012 to the project budget.

**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed an offer of £278,030 from ERDF, this will match the HLF and LTP funding identified above. Approval is sought to accept the grant on behalf of the Authority and to add the subsequent funding to the 2013/2014 Capital Programme.

The majority of land required for the development of the route is already secured by the County Council. Where this is not the case, agreement has been sought from two external landowners, Chatsworth Estates and NAL Plant Ltd, to secure the use and/or acquisition of additional discrete parcels of land.

Approval was granted by the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport on 27 November 2012 (Minute No. 236/12 refers) to establish access over, or acquire, land from Chatsworth Estates.

## Public

Nal Plant Ltd owns a short section of land at the southern end of the Langwith Branch Line; it has given 'in-principle agreement' to make a corridor available.

The Director of Property has been conducting these negotiations for some time on behalf of the Authority. The costs associated with the Chatsworth negotiations are estimated to be £20,000 and are included in the project budget in Appendix 2. Costs associated with Nal Plant Ltd are yet to be determined. These costs will be managed within the contingencies foreseen within the Project budget. Cabinet approval is sought to conclude the land ownership negotiations with Chatsworth Estates and Nal Plant Ltd at the earliest opportunity, or if these negotiations fail, to consider taking steps to secure the land or access over it, under the Council's compulsory purchase or Highways Act powers.

**(3) Financial Considerations** Appendix 2 outlines the budget for the development of the Archaeological Way from South Shirebrook to Poulter Country Park. The total cost of the project is calculated at £631,251; this figure is based on costs estimates developed by Derbyshire Consulting Engineers and includes fees and contingencies.

The costs will be funded through grants from HLF and ERDF of £95,900 and £278,030 respectively. This will be matched by £89,446 from LTP 2011/2012 and £168,000 from LTP 2013/2014, giving a total budget income of £631,376. All works are deemed to be capital in nature and, therefore, the additional amount of £373,930 needs to be added to the 2013/2014 Capital Programme.

**(4) Legal Considerations** Should it not be possible to complete negotiations with respect to land owned by Chatsworth Estates and Nal Plant Ltd, the Authority may need to pursue orders for the acquisition or for access rights over a number of parcels of land associated with the Archaeological Way.

A further report will be submitted to Cabinet if necessary to seek approval to exercise the Council's powers to compulsory purchase the land or create public access rights over it.

**(5) Environmental and Health Considerations** The redevelopment of the Archaeological Way will enhance the greenway network, contribute to the sustainable transport offer, and promote recreation and tourism within a number of the most deprived electoral wards in Derbyshire. The scheme is designed to help diversify the local economy and will support the regeneration of the area.

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

## Public

(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.

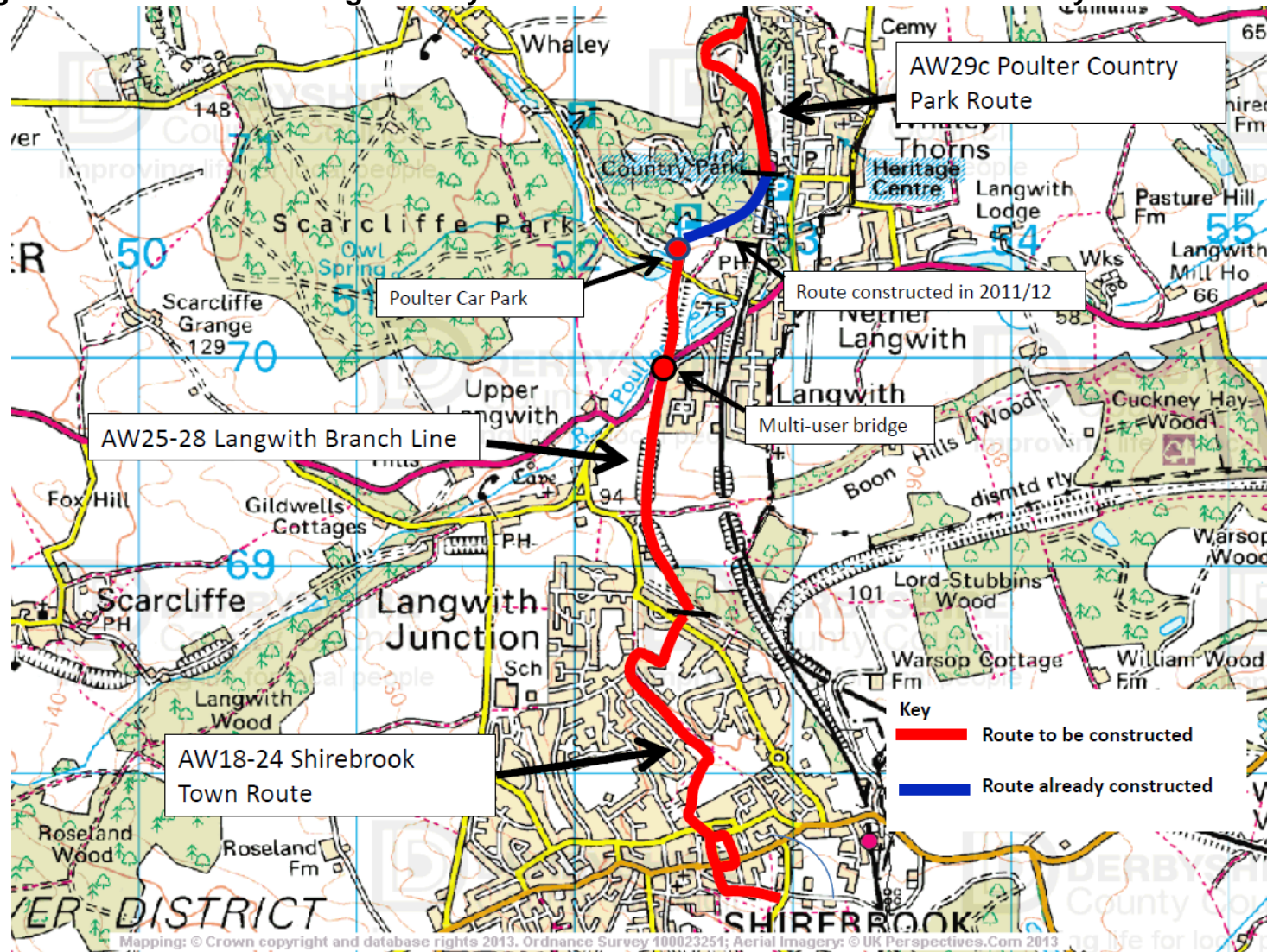
(8) **Background Papers** Reports to the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport 3 June 2010, (Minute No. 103/10 refers), 9 August 2011 (Minute No.156/11 refers), and 27 November 2012 (Minute No. 236/12 refers). Report to Cabinet 26 March 2013 (Minute No. 84/13 refers). Officer contact details – Andy Heath, extension 33022.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

- 9.1 Agrees to accept the Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £95,900 from Limestone Journeys and approves its inclusion in the 2013/2014 Capital Programme.
- 9.2 Agrees to accept the European Regional Development Fund grant of £278,030 from the Department for Communities and Local Government and approves its inclusion in the 2013/2014 Capital Programme.
- 9.3 Agrees the allocation of an additional £118,000 from Local Transport Plan 2013/2014 and £89,446 from Local Transport Plan 2011/2012.
- 9.4 Approves expenditure up to the value of £631,251 for the delivery of works identified on Shirebrook Town Route, Langwith Branch Line and Poulter Country Park route, to be 100% funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Local Transport Plan funding.
- 9.5 Approves the conclusion of land ownership negotiations with Chatsworth Estates and Nal Plant Ltd.
- 9.6 Agrees that if the land ownership negotiations fail, to consider taking steps to acquire the land or public access rights over it through Compulsory Purchase Orders and/or Creation Orders, subject to the submission of a further report.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services**

Map 1 - Alignment of the Archaeological Way from South Shirebrook to Poulter Country Park



**Project budget for the Archaeological Way from South Shirebrook to Poulter Country Park**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£<sup>1</sup></b>
Shirebrook Town Route (AW18-24)	102,472
Langwith Branch Line (AW25-28)	286,303
Whaley Road Realignment	55,440
Poulter Car Park	57,958
Poulter Country Park (AW29c)	88,115
Chatsworth land compensation	20,000
Interpretation and Community Art	20,963
<b>Total</b>	<b>631,251</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
LTP 2011/2012 – including fees	89,446
LTP 2013/2014 – including fees	168,000
Department for Communities and Local Government (ERDF)	278,030
Limestone Journeys (HLF)	95,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>631,376</b>

<sup>1</sup> Project costs include fees and contingency funds.