

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	John Tickle
Title:	Hawley Meadows Path Resurfacing - Approval to spend
Author:	Jo Heath
Reference:	7591

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. To authorise the procurement of a contract to resurface a 2km (1.25 mile) path from Frimley Business Park to the northern end of Hawley Meadows.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Path surfacing in Hawley Meadows is a discreet project as part of the SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces) network, and forms an essential part of the Better Connectivity project linking into a wider and larger sustainable transport scheme proposal lead by the M3LEP.
- 2.2. Other sections of the BVP (Blackwater Valley Path) have been resurfaced in the more urban parts of the valley, and these projects have been successful in improving ease of use and increasing numbers using the wider BVP network.
- 2.3. The route is currently an un-surfaced section of the long distance Blackwater Valley Path currently prone to winter flooding. The completion of this work will:
 - Provide an important link in the Blackwater Valley Better Connectivity Project; a Surrey CC, Hants CC partnership aimed at improving cycle and path links to rail stations
 - Meet the BVCP commitments in establishing the SANG for Hawley Meadows, as approved by Natural England and subject to a legal agreement between Hants CC Blackwater & Hawley TC, Surrey Heath BC, Rushmoor BC and Hart DC.
 - Improve both the connection with and to the wider overall long distance BVP and the quality of users experience.

- 2.4. The budget for the project is £350,000. £200,000 Funded by the Hawley Meadows SANG set-up, and an allocation of £150,000 from the Better Connectivity Sustainable Transport LEP (Local Growth Fund) project.
- 2.5. The scheme will be procured through the HCC Landscape Framework Lot C.
- 2.6. The SANG funding will provide an 80 year minimum fund for repairs/replacement and maintenance of the path network and site infrastructure. The term of the agreement is to manage this site in perpetuity (Natural England have preferred the term 80 years and have approved this term in reference to “in perpetuity”) subject to the legal agreement between Hants CC Blackwater & Hawley TC, Surrey Heath BC, Rushmoor BC and Hart DC. Funds are held by HCC with £3m available for the lifetime of this fund. Administrative support for the fund is currently provided by Elaine Pickering with annual checks on finances provided by Kent Brennan(Estates).
- 2.7. Public engagement was carried out for a six week period between the 15th June and the 27th July 2015. A public exhibition was held at the Watchmoor Business Park on Thursday the 2nd and Friday the 3rd of July 2015 with a public webpage being created. This determined the likely use of the new surfaced route which was positive.
- 2.8. Both Hampshire and Surrey Access Forums have been consulted with no comment. Local County Councillors have been informed with no comment.
- 2.9. As part of the wider scheme planned path improvements have been communicated by SCC to site users and via fliers to local businesses, libraries and shops.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Option 1 – Keeping the un-surfaced dirt path, which means failing to meet the needs identified above.
- 3.2. Option 2 – Install an unbound surface, which meets the needs for Hawley Meadows SANG, but would require more maintenance and is not the preferred option to meet the needs of the Better Connectivity project.
- 3.3. Option 3 – Install a new bound surface to the track, which meets the needs identified above, also has a positive impact for access to all user groups, including wheelchair, pushchairs and cyclists, and reduces the level of future maintenance. Minimum life expectation of bound surface is 10 years with surface only requiring touching up; after 20 years a possible resurface.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

5.1 None

6. Supporting information:

[BVCP Better Connectivity Hawley Meadows PID map](#)
[BVCP Better Connectivity Phase 1 Hawley Meadows Equalities](#)
[BVCP Better Connectivity - Communications Plan](#)

Approved by:	Date:
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John Tickle, Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage On behalf of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services	