

<b>REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE</b>		Report No. 19		
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2008			
<b>Title of Report</b>	Cricklade Country Way Partnership			
<b>Portfolio</b>	Healthy Lifestyles and Economy			
Link to Corporate Priorities	Spatial Planning			
Key Decision	No			
Executive Workplan Ref	B298			
Public Report	Yes			
<p><b>Summary of Report</b> To update the Executive on the Cricklade Country Way Partnership.</p>				
<p><b>Officer Recommendations</b>  <b>That the Executive note the Report.</b></p>				
Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.				
Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
<b>Contact Officer</b>	David Stirling, 01249 706502, <a href="mailto:dstirling@northwilts.gov.uk">dstirling@northwilts.gov.uk</a>			

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Cricklade Country Way Partnership Project has been sponsored and supported by the District Council over the last 2 years. The Partnership benefited from a Development Grant of £250,000 provided by the Big Lottery to complete a bid and prepare technical reports. The final application to Living Landmarks Lottery grant was unsuccessful. From feedback provided by the Big Lottery in December 2007 there was only one successful bid in England- The Cornish Heartlands.
- 1.2 Wiltshire County Council has agreed to fund the continuation of the project work until April 2009. Therefore the expenditure on the work outlined in section 2 below will be recovered from the County Council and the Partners.
- 1.3 The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust has seconded their Chief Executive officer time to the project for around 10 hours per week at no direct cost to the Partnership or the District Council.
- 1.4 The Wiltshire County Council has advised that they will consider the future continuation of the project through the Transition Cabinet during 2008/09. In the meantime the County Portfolio Member has requested that North Wiltshire District Council continue to take lead management responsibility. This is appropriate as previous years library, equipment, filing and data is held at the District Council.
- 1.5 Currently the Wilts and Berks Partnership project office support is provided at North Wiltshire District Council and using equipment and desks acquired through the Big Lotto Development fund. The District Council has annually contributed £10,250 towards the canal partnership post from its budget.
- 1.6 The project programme work is managed through the Partnership comprising representation from North Wiltshire District Council, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire County Council, Cricklade Town Council, Swindon and Cricklade Railway Society and Sustrans. The Cricklade Country Way Trust will be the Stakeholder Board, which has Member representation from each Council.

## **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 The 2008/09 partnership work programme which will be lead by the Partnership Project Manager is as follows-
  - Progressing grants from South West Regional Development Agency for Leader Scheme- The bid is for approx £3m and would deliver the land acquisition for the canal and complete the infrastructure for the railway.
  - EU Intereg funding Investigation under way of the North Atlantic programme.
  - To work with Cricklade Town Council on the design of the canal basin and location at Cricklade
  - To provide design and grant support for the Cricklade Rugby Club/Visitor Centre proposal.
  - To complete the Environmental Statement for the Canal and rail route.

- The completion of the protected species survey work.
  - Swindon Borough are progressing the Mouldon Hill Country Park involving the Canal, extension of railway northwards from Hayes Knoll, car park and footpaths.
  - Support Swindon and Cricklade Railway Society Heritage grant bid.
- 2.2 In addition the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership has continuing funding from local and County Councils; and the Environment Agency and this related work includes the following activities-
- **Swindon**  
Swindon Borough Council Cabinet have approved feasibility study for bringing the canal into the centre of Swindon as part of the town centre regeneration. Project board to be set up to work on delivering scheme
  - Canal Trust to start new project to extend canal from Mouldon Hill towards town centre
  - Wichelstowe developers starting to build canal and structures
  - **Melksham**  
Negotiations under way with British Waterways to create new junction and first part of canal route at Semington
  - **Abingdon**  
Thames Water reservoir plans to go to planning enquiry in 2008. The proposed scheme if approved would restore most of the canal from Grove to Abingdon.
  - **Vale of White Horse**  
District Council to consider proposal to partner the Trust in a scheme to restore the canal from Shrivenham to Grove. Developer lead scheme in Grove to fund local project.

**The Projects due to complete in 2008:**

Lock 4 (Seven Locks Tockenham)  
Chaddington Spillweir and canal pound Wootton Bassett  
Steppingstones Lane bridge Shrivenham

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no additional budgetary or financial implications arising directly from this report.

**4. Community & Environmental Implications**

- 4.1 The partnership working with local Councils and communities delivers areas of work-identified actions in both Community Plans, Open Space and Leisure Strategies for the Region.

**5. Human Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The project is hosted within the Council's office and occupies current vacated

space on a short-term basis. The Canal Partnership Project Manager post has been hosted by the District since 2000. The former postholder redundant in May 2007 when the partners funding contribution was insufficient for full-time employment. The Canal Partnership post funding (from Partners) is being utilised to support project consultants work for the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust. Funding is expected for 2008/09 work. The Post is a part-time secondment from the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust and there will be no employment issues should the position be redundant.

## 6. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced for this Council's activities in this area of Leisure.

## 7. Risk

- 7.1 The primary risk arising from this secondment is the potential commitment to partnership project work which may not be delivered due to lack of resources or skills covering a variety of tasks (see section 2). This could potentially impact on the District council's reputation and involve both Members and Managers. This is being mitigated by weekly monitoring updates from the Project Manager; and partnership meetings approximately every 6-8 weeks to review the workplan and manage exceptions. The Partners- especially Swindon Borough, and Wiltshire Council are also providing support for specific project work.

<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	None
---	------

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
• Report No 12.	Executive – 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2005	E155
• Report No 21	Executive – August 2006	E51
• Report No.8	Executive – December 2005	E134
• Report No. 13	Executive – April 2005	E241
• Report 19	Executive April2007	E235