



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Partnership Delivery Group

19 March 2019

Grantham Canal – Canal and River Trust Partnership

Report of the Executive Manager – Operations and Transformation

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report is to update Members on how the Council is working with the Canal and River Trust (CRT), to deliver 18km (see plan at Appendix 1) of multi-user tow path between Gamston and the boundary with Melton (just past Hickling).
- 1.2. A representative from the River and Canal Trust will provide a presentation for Members focusing on the outcomes of the Agreement with the Council.
- 1.3. Members are requested to comment on the Canal and River Trust partnership's delivery.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Group endorses the work that has been undertaken by the partnership with the Canal and River Trust and scrutinises the work that is carried out on the Rushcliffe section of the tow path.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Canal and River Trust has achieved the outcomes set out within the Agreement and continued access to the route remains open to all users.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Canal and River Trust (CRT) own the Grantham Canal and tow path and whilst it has a statutory duty to maintain and enhance it, through partnership working with the Council the parties sought to improve it further for the purposes of creating a shared objective: to provide an 18km off-road, multi-user route through the borough for pedestrians, cyclists and users of manual and motorised wheelchairs/scooters.
- 4.2. The Council has been working with the CRT (formerly British Waterways) on Grantham Canal via various projects since 1992; upgrading and improving accessibility to all users of the tow path, a route which runs from Gamston to the edge of the borough boundary with Melton, near Hickling.

- 4.3. The capital schemes over this period have included: widening the tow path to two metres, resurfacing, bank protection, installing footbridges, ramp improvements, bins, signage and motorbike barriers.
- 4.4. In 2003 a joint partnership agreement between the parties secured provision of the future maintenance of the route, with the CRT undertaking all works and the Council providing a financial contribution at an agreed rate. The agreement also provided a Licence to the Council to grant open access to the route for all users.
- 4.5. The partnership has enabled the significant improvement of the route to be created, maintained and open to all users since 2003. It provides Rushcliffe residents with a non-road alternative means of accessing the borough and also provides a route for recreational use.

5. Summary of the Partnership Agreement

- 5.1. Under the terms of the Partnership Agreement, the CRT will:
 - Give Rushcliffe Borough Council Licence to use the multi-user path for recreational purposes for all pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair/motorised scooter users.
 - Maintain the surfaced multi-user path and verge, pedestrian and cycle routes and timber pedestrian footbridge.
 - Maintain the street furniture, including bins and motorcycle barriers.

6. Achievements and Outcomes of the Partnership

- 6.1 A representative from the Canal and River Trust will provide a presentation detailing the work they have undertaken in maintaining the accessible route along Grantham Canal.

7. Risk and Uncertainties

- 7.1. The current Agreement ends in March 2024 and will be reviewed closer to the expiry date.

8. Implications

8.1. Finance

- 8.1.1 The first payment to CRT in 2003 was for £16,704 + VAT, the Agreement allows for an annual uplift in accordance with civil engineering indices. The payment made for 2018/19 was £40,825 + VAT and is contained within existing budgets.

8.2. Legal

8.2.1 The Agreement with CRT was established in conjunction with the Council's Legal Services team and expires in March 2024.

8.3 Equalities Implications

8.3.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

8.4.1 None.

8.5 Other Implications

8.5.1 Access to recreation and green space is promoted to all residents and can help to address issues relating to equality, diversity, mental and physical health.

9. Link to Corporate Priorities

9.1 Maintaining and enhancing our resident's quality of life.

10. Recommendation

10.1. It is recommended that the Group endorses the work that has been undertaken by the partnership with the Canal and River Trust and scrutinises the work that is carried out on the Rushcliffe section of the tow path.

For more information contact:	Leanne Ashmore Service Manager - Transformation 0115 914 8578 lashmore@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	Agreement between Rushcliffe Borough Council and Canal and River Trust 2003
List of appendices (if any):	Appendix A - Plan showing route of tow path