



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WAVERLEY)**

TWO PARKS PROJECT: HASLEMERE SCHEMES

14 December 2012

KEY ISSUE

To consider schemes proposed for Haslemere as part of an application for funding as part of the Two Parks programme.

SUMMARY

The partnership of authorities within the Two National Parks will put forward schemes in a bid for funding during the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.

As the number of bids is larger than the funding available, not all of the schemes put forward will be funded. Officers are looking for support for the bids suggested for the Haslemere area.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to;

- (i) Note the scheme agreed by the Two Parks Project Board for the 2012/13 financial year, indicated in **Annex A**.
- (ii) Agree to support the scheme bids scheduled in **Annex B** for the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In July 2012 the *Sustainable Transport Solutions for England's Two Newest National Parks* bid was granted £3.81 million from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). This means that New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority, along with their partners, have a once in a generation opportunity to influence the travel choices of visitors coming to, and travelling around, the National Parks by embedding travel behaviour change programmes in the National Parks between Summer 2012 and March 2015.
- 1.2 By encouraging more people to choose walking, cycling and public transport the partnership aims to make travel a distinctive and enjoyable element of the visitor experience; while protecting and enhancing, for the benefit of future generations of residents and visitors, the wildlife, landscapes, heritage and tranquillity which characterises the National Parks.

Two National Park LSTF Partnership

- 1.3 The Two National Parks LSTF bid was submitted by Hampshire County Council on behalf of the eight partnership authorities who are:
- Hampshire County Council (lead authority)
 - New Forest National Park Authority
 - South Downs National Park Authority
 - Brighton & Hove City Council
 - East Sussex County Council
 - **Surrey County Council**
 - West Sussex County Council
 - Wiltshire Council
- 1.4 A variety of public, private and community sector stakeholder partners will also be critical to successful delivery of the programme.
- 1.5 The Two National Parks LSTF will be focused on the New Forest and South Downs National Parks and whilst Surrey County Council is not covered by either of these Parks, it does border the South Downs National Park along part of the Surrey and West Sussex county boundary close to Haslemere, where there are good rail links, as well as along a short stretch of the Hampshire boundary.

2012/13 Financial Year

- 1.6 The Two Parks Project Board has awarded at least one scheme to all partners for the 2012/13 financial year, which needed to be a 'quick win' and deliverable by 31 March 2013.
- 1.7 The Haslemere area scheme is indicated in **Annex A**, and is the creation of a cycle link into the South Downs National Park from Haslemere railway station via Longdene Road and Tennyson's Lane.

2013/14 and 2014/15

- 1.8 A 2013/14 and 2014/15 draft programme of schemes has been drawn up by the partner authorities, but these are estimated to cost more than the funding available for the two financial years. As this is the case, the partners will need to put a case forward for each scheme and the Two Parks Project Board will agree a final short list of schemes for implementation.
- 1.9 **Annex B** attached indicates the schemes suggested for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years, and the Local Committee is asked to support these schemes for the bidding process.
- 1.10 It should be stressed that there is no guarantee that any of these schemes will be funded, but it is hoped that a good enough case can be made to attract some funding for Surrey.
- 1.11 The schemes contained within **Annex B** broadly consist of the following:
- A walking route from Haslemere railway station via the town centre where the Serpent Trail begins (accessed off the High Street). The Serpent Trail then uses a bridleway which requires upgrading within the Surrey section. The Serpent Trail can be walked in stages and one option could be to start at Haslemere railway station and finish at Liphook railway station.
 - Introduction of Real Time Information signs for bus route 70 at Haslemere railway station and in partnership with West Sussex County Council at Midhurst.
 - Improved signing for visitors arriving by train at Haslemere station providing onward travel connections, for walking, cycling and bus.
 - Providing a Sunday/Bank Holiday bus service from Haslemere railway station to Midhurst (and return). This service could be an extension of the existing Guildford to Haslemere service run on a Sunday/Bank Holiday.
 - Improving rail/bus interchange at Haslemere railway station, including bus waiting facilities.

2 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. The business case for the Two National Parks LSTF included a financial section that does not form part of this report and was approved by the DfT.

3 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Equalities and Diversity will be taken into account during the design of schemes, but does not form part of this report.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report..

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. The Two National Parks project provides an opportunity for Surrey County Council to influence the project and include Haslemere as a gateway to the South Downs National Park.

- 5.2. The schemes suggested in **Annex B** make a strong case for strengthening the walking, cycling and bus links connections with the South Downs National Park from Haslemere railway station and could assist in boosting the economy of the area with visitors purchasing goods in local shops before they travel into or returning from the National Park.
- 5.3. Whilst the 2012/13 scheme has already been awarded to Surrey County Council, officers would ask for the Local Committee's support for the schemes scheduled in **Annex B**, before the Two Parks Project Board meet in January 2013 to agree the 2013/14 and 2014/15 programme.

6 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 6.1. The 2012/13 cycle scheme is planned to be implemented during February and March 2013. This will enable cyclists arriving by train at Haslemere station to access the South Downs National Park and they may use some of the circular routes that are planned to be developed by the partner authorities, within the National Park.
- 6.2. The partners of the project will put together a case for each scheme and these will be presented, firstly for Surrey to the South Downs Project Group, and if agreed with them, to the Two Parks Project Board for agreement to proceed. Unfortunately, the funding available does not cover all of the schemes currently scheduled by partners; therefore some schemes will not be funded.
- 6.3. The Project Board is due to meet on 10 January 2013 to agree a draft programme of schemes for implementation during the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.
- 6.4. Once schemes are agreed by the Project Board, they will be developed for implementation and supported by marketing.

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**BACKGROUND
PAPERS:**

Sustainable Transport Solutions for England's Two
Newest National Parks bid – Hampshire County Council
(December 2010).

Two National Parks Project Board meetings August to
November 2012.