

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

DOGWOOD ACTIVE TRAVEL PATH

Report Reference ET-25-06
Meeting Date 9th June 2025
Agenda Item 12
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan and Cycle Infrastructure Plan identified the desirability of creating a cycle path linking Church Walk with Parkgate Lane via Dog Wood. The route would pass through multiple landownerships including a section of Tatton Park and would connect the town centre with the new housing development and the industrial park as well as providing a safe cycling/walking route from the eastern edge of town to the town centre. In 2024, using a grant through the Shared Prosperity Fund, the council commissioned a preliminary design for the route to enable the project to be progressed.

The report, considered by the committee in September 2024, recommended further pre-tendering works to undertake more detailed land investigations including a topographical survey and ground investigations. The most challenging stakeholder to secure permission from is likely to be the National Trust and they will require a more detailed report on the impact to the historic landscape alongside tree surveys and an ecology report for their portion of the route. It has also been discussed that an ecological appraisal would be beneficial for the whole route.

The committee included funds for this work in its budget the current financial year.

2.0 NEXT STEPS

The next stage is to commission a the more detailed land investigations and development of a final route design. This would include further appraisal of potential surface treatments for the path to look at alternatives to the tarmac proposed in the initial work and provide additional information to support a planning application and securing consents. The objective is to bring the proposals to a stage at which they can be implemented once funding is secured.

3.0 ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGY

3.1 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The council has a strategic aim to promote active travel by improving the desirability of walking and cycling. The creation of this part would directly contribute to this aim and the creation of wider active travel routes around the town.

The creation of this path is an express objective (T2) within the strategic plan.

3.2 ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The route would form part of the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan (to be developed) as it features in the Knutsford Cycle Infrastructure Plan which forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee approves:

- a) The procurement of a consultant to deliver the detailed design work and land investigations
- b) The Town Clerk appointed the consultant subject to it being within the budget provision (£37,500) and following consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Lead Member for the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan working group