



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

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## Report of Parks & Countryside

### Report to Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### Subject: Northwest Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways Initiative

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Adel & Wharfedale  
Horsforth  
Guiseley & Rawdon  
Otley & Yeadon

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council  
Function

Delegated Executive  
Function available  
for Call In

Delegated Executive  
Function not available for  
Call in Details set out in the  
report

## Executive Summary

**The report provides information on how the Northwest Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways (NWLCP&GG) can be developed and the revenue implications**

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To provide information on the concept, proposed development and objectives of the NWLCP&GG scheme
- 1.2 Revenue implications for initiating the NWLCP&GG

### 2.0 Background Information

- 1.1 The project has been instigated to preserve available greenspace and make it accessible for public recreation. The focus will be on the existing areas of greenspace and green corridors within the southern urban areas of the Outer Northwest Wedge and linking them to the countryside in the northern part of the wedge.

- 1.2 It is intended to use the successful model developed for the West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways for this scheme. In addition revenue generation to sustain the project through initiatives with the private sector, especially in the locality of the scheme, would be pursued

### **3.0 Main Issues**

#### **3.1 Key Elements of the Scheme**

- 3.1.1 Critical to the success of the scheme is the establishment of acceptable and achievable aims that also meet the requirements of important local government strategies such as the Vision For Leeds, Council Plan and the Parks & Greenspace Strategy. It is proposed to adopt the following aims: -

- Suitable and sustainable greenspace availability
- Establish and maintain quality recreational areas
- Consolidate and improve wildlife habitats
- Ensure and promote strong community involvement.

- 3.1.2 For the scheme to work effectively it is necessary to establish a boundary which will encapsulate the important greenspace areas. An initial boundary will be established for consultation purposes and thereafter tweaked through constructive dialogue. See Appendix 1 for the proposed boundary.

- 3.1.3 It is important to produce a large working map that covers the area of the Northwest Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways initiative and surrounding areas. The map is to include: -

- Ward boundaries
- Council Boundary
- Area Committee boundary
- Public rights of Way
- Long distance trails
- Greenspace areas with open public access. Such areas are to be colour coded to identify departmental, private or leased ownership
- Proposed NWLCP&GG trail

The working map will help guide the focus of consultation exercises with community groups and enable them to point accurately to areas that require consideration or attention.

- 3.1.4 Another aspect is to develop and publicise a trail that runs through the area and shows the various access points to it. For ease of development the trail will use existing public rights of way to avoid potential friction and legal issues with landowners in the area. Appendix 1 shows a potential route that could be adopted for the purposes of the initiative. An important element of the trail is to link key parks and greenspace areas in the Northwest area which will include: -

- Countryside north of Horsforth, Cookridge and Alwoodley
- Lawnswood Cemetery
- Bedquilts Recreation Ground
- Golden Acre Park

- Chevin Forest Park
- Nunroyd Park
- Rawdon Billing and Yeadon tarn
- Horsforth Hall Park
- Oil Mill Beck green corridor
- Adel Beck green corridor

3.1.5 Both the scheme and the trail are to be publicised through the website and by leaflets. On site it is important to establish trail boards, use way markers and also finger posts to direct visitors to important attractions en route. A logo and signature map is to be designed and used on any literature produced for the initiative. These items are to be included on trail boards since the presence of the signature map tells the visitor that the greenspace they are visiting is part of a greater scheme and linked to other greenspace areas.

3.1.6 It is essential to establish a NWLCP&GG forum comprising members from community groups, organisations, key council officers and ward members that are active in the area of the initiative. The function of the forum is to be consultative and help guide the development of the initiative.

3.1.7 An integral element of the initiative is the consultation with community groups and organisations explaining what the NWLCP&GG initiative is about, how it will develop and what benefits it is expected to give for local communities and organisations in the NWLCP&GG area. Part of the consultation will cover the consideration of various objectives pertinent to the scheme. These objectives are discussed in Section 4 below.

3.1.8 To create the post of NWLCP&GG officer. The officer is expected to develop the scheme, consult and work with interested groups wanting to improve local greenspace areas besides seeking funds to achieve various projects integral to the initiative.

## **3.2 Benefits to Local Businesses**

3.2.1 Offer advertisement opportunities for local businesses to help fund the scheme. This is to be achieved through the trail and activity leaflets whether they are hard copies or downloadable from the LCC website. In addition sponsorships for NWLCP&GG events will be pursued along with corporate involvement financially and physically in various conservation works.

3.2.2 To help local businesses generate income the development of the NWLCP&GG trail leaflet and subsequent smaller circular trails will include information useful to the user such as locations of stabling facilities, public houses, sandwich shops, outdoor retailers, cycle shops and petrol stations

3.2.3 To further promote local businesses facilitate fairs at key greenspace sites such as the Chevin Forest Park and Golden Acre Park with environmental, conservation and health themes.

3.2.4 Ensure major sports events on greenspace sites provide opportunities for local businesses to attend thereby generating contacts, income and interest in their products.

### **3.3 Objectives of the Scheme**

3.3.1 For the aims of the NWLCP&GG to be achieved the objectives mentioned below need consideration. Again it is expected that through consultation the proposed objectives may be altered or added to. For the scheme to be achievable it is proposed to phase the development in a manner that is more conducive to funding and meeting attainable goals.

3.3.2 First Year Objectives: -

- Look at means of generating and setting up income streams through promoting the scheme
- Create and fund the post of NWLCP&GG officer
- Define the boundaries of the NWLCP&GG initiative
- Develop the routes for the NWLCP&GG trail
- Form the NWLCP&GG forum
- Locate and approach the various community groups, organisations, key council officers and ward members to explain the merits of the initiative and receive information on issues in the various greenspaces that require attention.
- Initiate a Disability Audit for the NWLCP&GG trail
  
- Production of a management plan for the scheme that provides a description of the NWLCP&GG area and action plans to develop the scheme.

3.3.3 Second Year Objectives: -

- Fund the post of NWLCP&GG officer
- Seek funding to publicise the NWLCP&GG scheme and proposed trail in accordance to the action plans of the management plan
- Design and publish a general leaflet about the initiative and trail and also put this information on the website
- Start to design and publish specific leaflets about the NWLCP&GG trail and also put this information on the website
- Continue with the Disability Audit for the NWLCP&GG trail
- Begin to way mark the NWLCP&GG trail, establish trail boards at key points along its way and install finger posts to attractions.
- Initiate a number of guided walks along the trail
- Develop an activities leaflet that will list the various greenspace events taking place in the area of the initiative by local community groups and the Council.
- Ensure local businesses have opportunities to advertise on the trail and activities leaflet
- Continue to collate and incorporate into the management plan greenspace improvement projects that community groups would like to contemplate

3.3.4 Third Year Objectives: -

- Fund the post of NWLCP&GG officer
- Organise and facilitate conservation/environmental fairs to promote local businesses involved in these spheres of work.
- Ensure major sports events on greenspace sites create opportunities for local businesses to attend thereby generating contacts, income and interest in their products.
- Complete the specific leaflets and way marking of NWLCP&GG trail.
- Continue with producing yearly activity leaflets, leading guided walks (Natural & local history) and leaflets for the disabled about the trail.
- Start to create leaflets that assist disabled people to plan routes for exploration along the NWLCP&GG trail. Ensure this information is available on the website
- Resolve outstanding ownership of various greenspaces that lie within the area of the proposed NWLCP&GG.
- Where appropriate open up new public rights of way or permissive ways to provide links between various existing public rights of way and thereby develop continuity in routes through the proposed NWLCP&GG.
- Develop and expand access to new areas of greenspace within the urban and countryside areas that will positively contribute to the initiative.
- Facilitate large scale events to further promote the greenspace sites within the initiative especially for the purposes of improving health and well-being
- Continue to collate greenspace improvement projects that community groups would like to contemplate and seek funding to implement those that are deemed suitable.

#### **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 4.1 Development of the NWLCP&GG meets relevant criteria of all key council strategies, portfolios, plans and visions (Appendix 2).
- 4.2 The development of the NWLCP&GG is a key strategic outcome for the Outer North West Area Delivery Plan 2008

#### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 First year costs are as follows: -

- A NWLCP&GG Officer's post, at similar grades to a Parks Area Officer, to develop the scheme will cost £30,000 per annum including overheads. A budget for transport, marketing and other materials would cost in the region of £20,000. A full job description for the proposed post is attached at Appendix 3

Revenue Cost - £52,500

**TOTAL REVENUE COST - £52,500**

- 5.2 Second year costs are as follows: -

- A NWLCP&GG Officer's post to continue implementing the scheme at £50,000 per annum.

Revenue Cost - £52,500

- NWLCP&GG Officer to source grant funding through Green Leeds, Aggregates grants, Natural England grants and/or section 106 monies where appropriate to achieve the following.
- Interpretation boards are approximately £1,000 each. In view of the size and complexity of the routes in some areas we would suggest 8 boards for 6 different areas of the project. Some of these boards will be along the core route of the scheme, while others are to be located in key greenspaces by their main access points

Capital Cost - £50,400

- Leaflets are to be two formats. A general leaflet explaining the scope of the scheme and leaflets detailing the routes in the 6 different areas that complement the interpretation boards. Suggest 10,000 general leaflets and 5,000 for each of the leaflets that represent the different areas. Cost £1,000 for the general leaflets and £4,300 for the specific leaflets.

Capital Cost - £5,565

- In respect of way marking it is quite likely that a mix of metal & plastic roundels and directional signs are to be used to provide directions. 6000 Roundels printed in three colours and complete with three fixing holes at £9,000. To provide metal directional signs to existing systems recommend £7,000. Thus in total way marking will require a monetary outlay of £16,000.

Capital Cost - £16,800

- To provide metal fingers posts to guide the public to interesting sites off the main trail. Recommend 70 posts and 80 fingers at a cost of £18,500

Capital Cost - £26,250

**TOTAL REVENUE COST - £52,500**

**TOTAL CAPITAL COST – £99,015**

### 5.3 Third year costs

- A NWLCP&GG Officer's post to continue implementing the scheme at £50,000 per annum.

**Revenue Cost - £52,500**

- NWLCP&GG Officer to source grant funding through Green Leeds, Aggregates grants, Natural England grants and/or section 106 monies were appropriate to achieve the following.
  - (a) Various greenspace improvement projects requested by local community groups.
  - (b) Produce leaflets that assist disabled people to plan routes for exploration along the NWLCP&GG trail.
  - (c) Achieve other priority objectives in the management plan.

**TOTAL REVENUE COST - £52,500**

**6.0 Equality Considerations**

- 6.1 The development of the NWLCP&GG trail will include an assessment of the difficulties the route poses for those with physical complications. Where possible the route examination will be done with disabled groups.
- 6.2 With the proposed leaflets there will be the option, on request, of producing them in other languages, larger print, Braille or in audio form

**7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The report details the conceptual and developmental elements of the NWLCP&GG
- 7.2 Clear objectives over a three period are provided
- 7.3 Costings for an Officer to develop the scheme and fund the interpretation element.

**8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 To approve the development of the NWLCP&GG initiative
- 8.2 Discuss the provision of suitable funding to implement the scheme