

Briefing Note – Provision of footway on A815 at Hunters Quay Holiday Village

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the options towards funding the completion of the footway connection between Hunters Quay and Sandbank on A815.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members take note of this report.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 The footpath connecting Hunters Quay and Sandbank has a gap section of some 507 lin. m. either side of the entrance to Hafton House, as indicated in APPENDIX 1. This discourages pedestrian use on this section of A815 Coastal road. This area is considered an aspirational route within the Core Paths network but comes with little prospect of development funding in the near future.
- 3.2 Initial estimates of the cost to provide the completion of the footway on the inland side of A815 is in the order of £240,000. As such, this is in excess of any available internal budget to finance exclusively. As the Roads and Footways Reconstruction budget is allocated to maintenance of the current asset, funding through this avenue is unlikely unless associated with a much larger carriageway maintenance scheme which is not at present required within the scope of the 5 year programme.
- 3.3 A bid for 50% funding through Sustrans can be pursued but match funding by the Council's "Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes to Schools" budget would be substantial and likely to require input over several financial years.
- 3.3 The proposal to impose a 30mph zone in this area may allow a reduction in the specification of the footpath to a "shared surface" to minimise costs, with the appropriate signing. However its suitability for match funding from the external bodies would require clarification. The receipt of recent planning applications for this area may allow a proportion of the footway to be provided through the "planning gain" route and so reduce the impact on the overall funding required to complete this project. The timescales for this are however indeterminate.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 There are several avenues of enquiry which officers will pursue over the next 6-9 months towards potential commencement of works within financial year 2013-14.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | <i>Assists in the promotion of health and wellbeing.</i> |
| 5.2 | Financial | <i>Requires substantial external contributions to complete the works.</i> |
| 5.3 | Personnel | <i>None</i> |
| 5.4 | Equalities Impact Assessment | <i>None</i> |
| 5.5 | Legal | <i>Land acquisition implications</i> |
| 5.6 | Risk | <i>none</i> |
| 5.7 | Customer Service | <i>Improves local amenity for residents and tourists</i> |

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 A815 Location plan

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