

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment Form

Grant funding contribution towards Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail

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Environment and health

Greenhouse gas emissions

SLDC's aim is to be carbon neutral by 2030: How will your proposal affect greenhouse gas emissions?

Consider:

- Energy saving, for example preventing unnecessary use of energy - reducing use of appliances or cutting down on journeys that are not required.
- Improving energy efficiency - ensures that the maximum benefit is gained from energy that is used. For example energy is not wasted or lost through insulation, heating the right areas and efficient lighting.
- Renewable generation for example using renewable resources, such as wind, sunlight, rainwater.
- Minimising emissions from transport.

Response:

The Towpath Trail project seeks to enhance the surface and interpretation along the historic route of the Lancaster Canal to encourage new users along a more accessible surface. This will seek to encourage people out of their cars and to use the route as an active travel and leisure route and minimise emissions from transport also.

To support green growth, we will also consider how this project will work with the natural environment to achieve green growth objectives, and consider the project's impact on our natural assets and nature.

Alternative ways to deliver proposal

Please show how you are addressing alternative ways of delivering your proposal with a reduced or zero requirement for energy, building space, materials or travel

How are you using the waste/energy hierarchy – 1) avoid, 2) reduce, 3) reuse?

Response:

Materials are needed to deliver any enhancements and capital upgrades to create a more accessible surface. Alternative ways to deliver the proposal will be considered in light of the waste/energy hierarchy, but it is expected that any negative impact of material used will be offset by the benefits of the increase in active travel.

Air quality

Please demonstrate how your project will have an impact on air quality.

Response:

Traffic emissions, from private car usage as well as public transport, are one of the key sources of air pollution across the UK (although they are not the only source). The challenges around air quality are fundamentally linked to climate change.¹

Investment and improvements to active travel infrastructure will inevitably lead to increase in active travel and by extension an improvement in air quality through a reduction in traffic emissions.

Biodiversity

Please outline any impacts on biodiversity that your proposal might have

“To halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, (create) more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people”: Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services, DEFRA.

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on biodiversity.

Climate change impact

How does your proposal mitigate the impacts of climate change?

Assess the risks and impacts associated with climate change (extreme weather events: flooding, heatwaves, droughts and fires) and the implications for our services and communities. Describe measures in place to embed resilience and recovery.

Response:

Emission targets are unlikely to be met without a significant move away from motorised transport and shifting to active transport could save as much as a quarter of personal CO2 emissions from transport. Increases in active mobility significantly lower carbon footprints.² Investment in active travel infrastructure is therefore critical to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Active travel

How does the proposal enable active travel?

Encouraging and facilitating walking, cycling and public transport.

¹ [Active travel: the benefits to health and air quality - UK Health Public Health Network \(ukpublichealthnetwork.org.uk\)](https://www.ukpublichealthnetwork.org.uk)

² [Get on your bike: Active transport makes a significant impact on carbon emissions | University of Oxford](#)

Response:

Active travel is central to this project and proposal. Upgrades to surfaces will encourage more walkers and cyclists to get outside. Due to the topography of the Lancaster Canal, it lends itself well to an accessible trail for low mobility users, wheelchairs and pushchairs, encouraging wider participation of the leisure route.

Greater accessible walking, wheeling, cycling and good public transport links can help to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities by being more inclusive and giving equal access to leisure and recreational services.³

Economy and culture

Sustainable development

How does the proposal contribute to inclusive and sustainable development?

Response:

Investing in infrastructure and support for active travel can increase economic growth and vibrancy. Those walking, wheeling and cycling tend to spend more money locally than drivers. Increasing active travel opportunities can stimulate economic growth and benefit local attractions and services.⁴

Pay

How does the proposal impact on jobs and levels of pay?

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on jobs and levels of pay.

Healthier high streets

Demonstrate how the proposal contributes to healthier high streets.

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on healthier high streets.

³ [About Active Travel | Paths for All](#)

⁴ [About Active Travel | Paths for All](#)

Culture, creativity and heritage

How does the proposal impact on culture, creativity or heritage and if not can they be embedded in this proposal?

Response:

Greater access to the Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail through infrastructure and surface upgrades will lead to greater access to forgotten heritage in the district.⁵

Included within LCRP's aspirations for the Towpath Trail are an interpreted, family-friendly leisure route that compliments the surface improvements and gives residents and visitors a better understanding of the history and industrial heritage linked to the Lancaster Canal.

Housing and communities

Housing standards

Does the proposal lead to an improvement in the standard of housing?

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on the standard of housing.

Access to housing

How does the proposal increase access to housing?

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on access to housing.

Crime and fear of crime

How does the proposal reduce crime or fear of crime?

Response:

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on crime reduction or fear of crime.

Social connectedness

How does the proposal increase social connectedness?

Response:

⁵ Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership: Access Strategy 2017

Active travel has clear health benefits as physical activity increases, social connections are made and mental health is boosted by activity and time outdoors in nature.⁶

Heritage also has a role to play in social connectedness, enhancing our wellbeing and quality of life, improving the way places are perceived and accessed, and engaging the general public. Historic places convey a sense of uniqueness and awe, and are strong emotional pillars for common values, connecting communities, Heritage can also improve personal wellbeing, by helping us to understand our past, our communal identity and help us connect with the places where we live.⁷ The Towpath Trail seeks to embody this sentiment.

Health and sustainability impact summary

Each category is rated either: **Positive**, **Negative**, **Neutral**, or **unknown**

Environment and Health

Greenhouse gases emissions: **Positive**

Air Quality: **Positive**

Biodiversity: **Neutral**

Impacts on climate change: **Positive**

Reduced or zero requirement for energy, building space, materials or travel: **Positive**

Active travel: **Positive**

Economy and Culture

Inclusive and sustainable development: **Positive**

Jobs and level of pay: **Neutral**

Healthier high streets: **Neutral**

Culture creativity and heritage: **Positive**

Housing and communities

Standard of housing: **Neutral**

Access to housing: **Neutral**

Crime: **Neutral**

⁶ [About Active Travel | Paths for All](#)

⁷ [Heritage and Society 2020 \(historicengland.org.uk\)](#)

Social connectedness: **Positive**

Health and sustainability action plan

What actions will be taken to eliminate or minimise any negative impacts identified above?

Actions	Who's responsible	Completed (Date)
Ensure that the SLDC funding contribution seek to minimise any negative impacts in line with the above of the towpath trail and its delivery	Operational Lead – Place and Environment	01/12/2022

What positive actions will be taken to advance health or sustainability?

Actions	Who's responsible	Completed (Date)
Ensure that the SLDC funding contribution seek to maximise the potential economic, social, environmental, health and sustainability benefits of the towpath trail and its delivery	Operational Lead – Place and Environment	01/12/2022

Research

Evidence, research and other sources of information used to inform the Impact Assessment.

[Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership | Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail | LCRP](#)

[Active Travel England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Canal and River Trust: Better Towpaths for Everyone.pdf \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

[The Lancaster Canal Trust | Lancaster Canal Restoration \(lctrust.co.uk\)](http://lctrust.co.uk)

[Overview - Restoration Hub - Inland Waterways](#)

[Practical resources to help make walking and cycling for everyone - Sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)

Consultation

Details of any specialists or groups that you have discussed this proposal with and the advice/information provided.

Please see Cabinet Report Section 5 regarding Consultation.