

 <b>Executive Committee</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <h1 style="text-align: center;">11</h1>
<b>Title</b>	Extension of Navigation on the Avon from Stratford to Warwick	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Chris Elliott 01926 456003 chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Emscote, Myton and Heathcote, and Budbrooke	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Not applicable	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No (If No state why below)
Not needed at this stage.	

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive	06/06/17	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	06/06/17	Tracy Darke;
CMT	06/06/17	Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	06/06/17	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	06/06/17	Andrew Jones
Finance	06/06/17	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	12/06/17	Noel Butler
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
If the project progresses then detailed consultation will be required.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
Further work will need to be done to assess the impacts of such a proposal and its financial feasibility before it can progress.		

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report considers a request for the Council to support in principle for the extension of navigation on the River Avon from Stratford to the Grand Union Canal at Warwick.

## 2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Council agrees to the request from the Avon Navigation Trust for support to look further at the principle of the proposal for the extension of navigation on the River Avon from Stratford to the Grand Union Canal at Warwick.

## 3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 to this report is a letter and a project summary outlining the justification and potential impact of being able to extend the navigation on the River Avon from Stratford to the Grand Union Canal at Warwick.
- 3.2 The proposal is a long term one but could generate significant economic benefits for Warwick town and the District by boosting the tourism sector of the local economy. There appears to be significant potential but the scheme will not progress in the absence of the Council's support. Stratford District Council considered the same request at its Cabinet meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June and decided it would offer that support. The County Council is understood to be similarly considering the request.

## 4. **Policy Framework**

### 4.1 **Sustainable Community Strategy**

The proposal if implemented would accord with the Council's policy priority in respect of promoting prosperity and the tourism sector. However, there are also potential health and well-being benefits if the extension of the navigation was accompanied by additional footpaths and cycleways between Warwick and Stratford.

### 4.2 **Fit for the Future**

Indirectly the proposal could assist the Council's Fit for the Future strategy money strand by generating more income from parking and from visits to its parks in Warwick by the added attraction of canal boats being able to navigate the riverside. It is unlikely that there would be any impact on the Service and People strands.

- 4.3 The proposal may fit well with the Council's declared intention to designate the canal through the District a Conservation Area as it could deliver some resources to help maintain or upgrade the canal infrastructure.

### 4.3 **Impact Assessments**

At this stage, no work has been undertaken but if the scheme progresses then at the design stages further work would be needed especially for disabled access.

## **5. Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 At this stage the report does not generate any budgetary impact. The next piece of work that the ANT proposes to undertake is a feasibility assessment including of funding options. It may well be that the Council may be asked to contribute to the cost of undertaking research but it is not known how much that might be. A separate report and decision would be required.
- 5.2 Now the only resource implication would be staff time but this can be managed within existing resources at this time.

## **6. Risks**

- 6.1 At this stage of the process there are no real risks as the Council is not committing itself to anything other than some staff time. Clearly this could change over time as the scheme progresses and develops and so the risk assessment would need to be updated as the scheme moves on.

## **7. Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 The Executive could decide not to offer such support. It would be difficult for the scheme to progress without this Council's support and as it may offer significant economic benefits this course of action is not advocated.