

## A417 MISSING LINK STEERING GROUP

**Summary:** To review the progress of the A417 Missing Link Steering Group

**Recommendation:** That the Executive Committee notes the report

**Report by:** Andy Parsons, Chief Executive

### BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTED ON THE GROUP

- Graham Hopkins
- Sue Crawford

### MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Steering Group hasn't met since the September Executive Committee meeting.
2. Other meetings in the period:
  - 15 September, 11 October, 17 January – collaboration sessions (led by Kier) on the detailed design of the scheme
  - 11 October – site visit 'getting to know you' meeting at Crickley Hill, led by Kier
  - 19 October – Chief Executive interviewed by an independent panel as part of the scheme's assurance review
  - 21 October – site visits with National Highways (and consultants), National Trust and the CNL team, in preparation for the Biodiversity Net Gain project.
  - 9 November – Strategic Stakeholder Panel pre-decision meeting.
  - 17 November – Strategic Stakeholder Panel post-decision meeting.
  - 19 January – Chief Executive involved in filming at Crickley Hill.

### OTHER ACTIVITY

3. The Secretary of State approved the Development Consent Order for the scheme on 16 November.
4. Designated Funds update:
  - *Dry stone wall grant scheme* (lead: James Webb)
    - Estimated funding requirement: £553,000.
    - Made the decision to withdraw our application due to technical barriers imposed by National Highways.
  - *Landscapes for Everyone* - three new disability trails at Coopers Hill, Stinchcombe and Lansdown (lead: Rebecca Jones)
    - Estimated funding requirement: £147,000.
    - Made the decision to include the Coopers Hill trail into a Gloucestershire County Council led access project. Stinchcombe and Lansdown will now form part of the Defra funded 'Removing Barriers' project.
  - *Dark Skies* - to support the conservation and enhancement of dark skies (lead: Mandy Pressland)
    - Estimated funding requirement: unknown at this stage.
    - Awarded £24,800 Feasibility funding, which will run until February 2023, at which point we will have a better idea of the scope (and costings) of the full project.

- *Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)* – grasslands restoration/creation and ongoing maintenance (lead: Simon Smith)
  - Estimated funding requirement: £7.7m (£2.1m for CNL / £5.6m for National Trust)
  - The technical review was approved in November, with the agreement for the feasibility funding in progress.
  - Interviews for the BNG Officer role took place on 16/17 January.

**DECISIONS REQUIRED**

5. None

**NEXT STEPS**

6. To continue being involved in the Designated Funds programme and proposals.

**SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- None

JANUARY 2023