

Monmouthshire

Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP WORKING: GWENT REGIONAL ACCESS STRATEGY

MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 26 JANUARY 2023

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) regional access strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 To note progress

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) is a collaborative project funded through Welsh Government's RDP ENRaW programme developing and delivering a common approach to managing green infrastructure, including the countryside access network, planning, and delivering improvements to support community well-being. It is managed by a collaboration of local authorities, led by Monmouthshire CC, working with Natural Resources Wales and other partners. Further information is available [here](#).
- 3.2 The programme strands include access; to prepare a strategic access plan identifying missing links and areas where improvements are needed in the countryside access network both regionally and locally to enable people to lead active healthy lifestyles, provide economic opportunities and expand, where possible, the network available to cyclists and horse riders.
- 3.3 Following a tender process Lepus Consulting were appointed in November 2022 to prepare a Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan for Gwent. The project objectives are:
 - a. Deliver a strategic access plan for the Gwent region identifying key opportunities and management strategies
 - b. Produce a Green corridors strategic delivery plan and costed projects. The plan is programmed for completion by the end of May 2023
- 3.4 The outputs include the identification of missing links and areas where improvements are needed to access the countryside and green spaces, both regionally and locally to create deliverable action plans, including seeking to identify opportunities for effective collaboration across local authority borders.

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- 3.5 To assist this process a workshop session is planned in February with the Gwent Access Group volunteers to assist in identifying key links across Gwent. Details of the workshop will be circulated shortly.
- 3.6 In addition an invitation to tender will shortly be published for a public rights of way design guide for Gwent. This will update our existing Monmouthshire design guide, adding in additional furniture and including relevant legislation and local policy updates.

4. AUTHOR:

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