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**REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF PATHS IN TWEEDBANK IN  
THE COUNCIL'S LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS**

**Report by Service Director Regulatory Services**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**21 APRIL 2015**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report seeks approval for footpaths in the Tweedbank area of Galashiels to be added to the Council's List of Public Roads.**
  
- 1.2 The Council were asked to look at the possible upgrading of a trodden pedestrian link between the car park associated with Herges on the Loch and the footpath around Gunknowe Loch. When it was agreed this should be to an adoptable standard, officers were asked what other paths in the area could also be considered for adoption in terms of their strategic nature. After lengthy discussions, the paths indicated on the attached plan were deemed suitable for addition to the Council's List of Public Roads.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee agrees to the paths shown red on the attached plan being advertised for adoption and thereafter being added to the Councils List of Public Roads subject to there being no substantive representations made against the proposal.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A request was submitted to the Council for a section of trodden, well used path to be upgraded by the Council, forming a link from the car park at Tweedbank Village Centre to the paths around Gunknowe Loch. It was agreed that this upgrading work would be carried out by SBLocal. Clarification was sought at this stage as to what standard the path should be constructed.
- 3.2 The Roads Planning Service of the Council were asked whether they would consider adding the path to the Council's List of Public Roads if it was constructed to an adoptable standard.
- 3.3 When they confirmed the paths would be suitable for adoption, the question was then asked as to which other paths within the overall Tweedbank area were on the list or could be added to the list.
- 3.4 Lengthy discussions then took place between the ward members (Councillors Gillespie, Parker and Torrance), Roads Planning Service and the Councils Infrastructure and Asset Managers (Mr. C. Ovens and Mr. D. Richardson) as to the proposal.
- 3.5 In terms of the condition of the paths, those paths coloured red on the attached plan were deemed to be of such a standard that they could be added to the list immediately without any upgrading works being required. This took into consideration the current condition of the surfacing, whether lighting was present, what drainage was present and what work the paths were likely to require within the next 10 to 15 year period.
- 3.6 In terms of use, Roads Planning considered which paths in the vicinity were more than just amenity paths. When considered against the principles of *Designing Streets* and *Placemaking and Design*, they deemed that the paths coloured red provided important linkage within Tweedbank between areas of public interest and use. These links were between housing areas, local facilities (shop, school etc) and also links to transport routes. They also provided links between different areas of Tweedbank and were capable of being linked into future development within the eastern end of Tweedbank e.g. railway station, business centre, tapestry building. In other words the paths in question have a significant public interest.
- 3.7 The paths being considered for addition to the list are currently maintained by the Council as Parks Authority (Commercial Services/Property Management) and, if the proposal is approved, the maintenance would transfer to the Neighbourhood Service and Commercial Services budgets used for public road maintenance.

## **4 IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

- (a) There will be no additional cost to the Council maintaining the paths. The costs will be met from Neighbourhood Service and Commercial Services budgets.
- (b) The costs associated with maintaining the street lighting on the paths will continue to be met from the current Street Lighting Maintenance budget.
- (c) The cost associated with the advertising of this addition would be met from the relevant Regulatory Services budget.

### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- (a) There are no direct risks to the Council as a result of this request, however by approving the request it will result in better housekeeping in terms of maintenance of the paths in question.
- (b) There may be a risk that the approval of this request will lead to further requests for amenity paths within parks to be added to the List of Public Roads. Whilst this is a possibility, any other paths would only be considered suitable for addition to the list if they are strategic in nature, form important links between public places of interest and are to an acceptable standard in terms of construction, drainage and lighting.

### **4.3 Equalities**

Following the completion of an Equality Scoping, it was determined that no Equality Impact Assessment was required.

### **4.4 Acting Sustainably**

There will be no economic, social or environmental effects of carrying out this proposal.

### **4.5 Carbon Management**

There are no effects on carbon emissions as a result of this proposal.

### **4.6 Rural Proofing**

There are no rural proofing implications arising from this proposal.

### **4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There will be no changes to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of this proposal.

## 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.
- 5.2 The Service Director Neighbourhood Services and Service Director Commercial Services have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.

### Approved by

**Brian Frater**  
**Service Director Regulatory Services**

**Signature .....**

### Author(s)

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**Background Papers: None**

**Previous Minute Reference: None**

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