



CAPITAL SCHEMES REQUEST FOR FEASIBILITY FEES

Name Of Scheme: - Langport river access project and Upper Parrett Waterway Plan

Feasibility Amount Requested: - £5000
(Match-funding contribution – total estimated £20,000)

Section 1

Project Background and Outline
<p>The aspiration to re-establish some form of navigation (most likely for recreational boating and canoeing) on the Upper Parrett is not alone in Somerset – with interests in the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal, Tone and Huntspill, all featuring in current regeneration programmes. The Somerset Waterways Advisory Committee (led by Somerset County Council) joins together a broad partnership of interests, including the Inland Waterways Association, the districts and county councils, Somerset Waterways Development Trust, and British Waterways.</p> <p>This request for feasibility costs is to assist in the further development of a project to promote, develop and manage the re-establishment of a legal right for recreational navigation on the River Parrett and its tributaries upstream of Oath Sluice, minimising any public safety issues, and negative environmental impact of the river corridor, through a dedicated navigation authority. This work will be programmed within the emerging Upper Parrett Waterway Plan, which will be further developed as part of this feasibility work. By securing match funding, for example through the Levels and Moors programme, it is hoped that some small 'quick wins' can also be achieved to deliver some increase in permitted access.</p> <p>The costs required are to make further progress on recent work through the Langport River Group and Somerset Waterways Development Trust, which completed background research, conducted broad stakeholder consultation, and reviewed and endorsed a short-term action plan. This work will develop the conclusion and recommendations made from the recent report compiled for SSDC and the Somerset Waterways Development Trust. (For a full copy of the report and recommendations see www.southsomerset.gov.uk/river)</p> <p>The sum requested will provide a partnership contribution from SSDC as match funding to feasibility costs over the coming months to provide a high standard of project governance to maintain momentum within the project action plan.</p> <p>The required activities include: consideration of the establishment of a shadow Navigation Authority, for the Upper Parrett; the early stages of work towards the preparation of an Upper Parrett Waterway Plan; monitoring the progress of the current Environment Agency Transport and Works Act Order; support to the governance of the Langport River Group and links to a potential Upper Parrett Navigation Authority, and the Somerset Waterways Advisory Committee; consultation with key statutory and non—statutory bodies (Environment Agency,</p>

<p>Natural England among others.)</p> <p>Concluding the feasibility work will support (or not) further bids to a variety of funders for a programme of installations to promote boating and canoeing, plus the development and start up costs for a navigation authority which will act to promote the realization of a waterway plan for the Upper Parrett, and maintain public access for the long term.</p> <p>There is no explicit expectation that the outcomes of the feasibility work will result in a further capital investment by SSDC, however it is assumed that at least part of the remaining allocation for the Langport Vision could be applied for.</p> <p>The outputs from the work will include meetings with stakeholders – notably Natural England and the Environment Agency; public consultation and communications activities; drawn together into a draft Upper Parrett Waterway Plan. The governance of the River Group will be strengthened, along with stronger future arrangements for delivering the required actions, and longer term management of the right to access and use the river. The project will also create good quality supporting evidence for future bids for external funding.</p>

Section 2

<p>Service Objectives & Outcomes</p> <p>1.14 Support South Somerset Together to develop and support distinctive, balanced, local economies in South Somerset through a range of measures...</p> <p>3.20 Increase children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas and adult participation in sport an active recreation.</p> <p>3.29 Increase access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.</p> <p>This project also strongly complements other existing and planned provision including the River Parrett Visitor Centre, the Great Bow Wharf, the River Parrett Trail and network of rights of way, the proposed cycleway to Martock.</p>

Section 3

Estimated Costs	£/hours
Capital Revenue Officer time (hours)	£5000 £15000
Charlotte Jones Pauline Burr Katy Menday	20 hours 10 hours 5 hours
Funded by: SSDC Area North External sources (eg: Levels and Moors, SCC)	5000 15000