



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB

Telephone 01453 766321 • Facsimile 01453 750932

www.stroud.gov.uk

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	COTSWOLD CANALS CONNECTED (CCC) PARTNERS PROJECT BOARD
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	27 JULY 2022

BRIEF REPORT:

Members will be aware that the Cotswold Canals Connected Project was successful in securing £8.9m funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) towards a £20+m project to restore sections of the Stroudwater Navigation and reconnect this to the National canal network. The project will bring economic, social and environmental benefits and a lasting legacy for our communities. As well as NLHF, core funding partners include SDC as lead and accountable body, Gloucestershire County Council, Canal and Rivers Trust, Cotswold Canals Trust (co-lead of the project with SDC) and Stroud Valleys Canal Company.

The Partners' Project Board last met on 27 July 2022 and will meet next on 18 October. Key items under discussion by the board at this time include:

Funding

The board is looking at the current financial position with the project, and ways to manage escalating project costs. A progress update on this work will come to the next board meeting on 18 October, and a substantive report is also planned to come to the November meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee.

Land Acquisitions

Good progress is being made in the acquisition of all remaining third-party land that will be necessary to restore the canal. It is anticipated that all of this land will be acquired – or have options to be acquired – by the end of this calendar year or very early in 2023.

Planning Application (Missing Mile)

A planning application to create the 'missing mile' section of the canal between Stonehouse Ocean and under the M5 motorway is in the final stages of being drawn together. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in the coming weeks, for determination by the Council's Development Control Committee in December 2022 (or possibly January 2023).



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Activity Planning and Community Benefit

Good progress has been made in reviewing and re-prioritising the 'activity plan' for the project, which has seen disruption and delays in being implemented largely because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a critical area of work that is central to the NLHF support for the project and will set out the key areas of wider community benefit to be secured over the lifetime of the funding and beyond. NLHF has been working with SDC and other key partners in this work which will be completed by December 2022.

Continued progress and resolution on all of the above items is necessary to achieve final 'permission to start' for the project from NHLF.

A substantive report on the project will come to Strategy and Resources Committee on 24 November 2022.

FUTURE MEETINGS	18 October 2022
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere and Chris Mitford-Slade
DATE	28 September 2022