

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report to:** Charity Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 29th March 2011

**Report Title:** Extension to Cycle Route

**Report By:** Virginia Gilbert  
Head of Resort Services & Amenities

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**Purpose of Report**

To seek the support of the Charity Committee for the shared pedestrian and cycle route along the eastern seafront and the Committee's agreement to cycle route signs and markings on Foreshore Trust land.

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**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the Charity Committee supports the designation of relevant parts of the promenade as a shared use pedestrian and cycle route.
2. That the Charity Committee gives its permission for the additional signs and markings to be installed.

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**Reasons for Recommendations**

The eastern cycle route extension along with the planned western link from Glyne Gap to West Marina will provide a continuous off road route of more than 8km between Bexhill and Hastings and will form part of the National Cycle Network Route 2 (The South Coast Cycle Route), contributing to public use and enjoyment of the seafront and supporting sustainable transport objectives.

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## Introduction

1. HBC Cabinet approval was given in July 2010 for the design and implementation of an extension to the existing seafront cycle route, from its current termination at Robertson Street along the promenade to the Old Town. The extension would complete the route between Bexhill and Hastings which includes the new western link jointly funded by Sustrans and ESCC to provide a continuous off road route of more than 8km.
2. Both the western link and eastern extension will be shared use pedestrian and cycle routes based on latest guidance from the Department for Transport, Cycling England, Sustrans and ESCC and will form part of the National Cycle Network Route 2 (NCN2) – The South Coast Cycle Route.
3. The eastern extension follows a route along pavement that is partially Foreshore Trust land. A map of the route is attached to this report. The use of the route over Foreshore Trust land for walking and cycling is permitted under the objects of the charitable trust and we seek confirmation from the Committee that they support this use and that they will give permission for signs and waymarkings (locations are noted on the attached map).

## Design of the route

4. Detailed planning meetings have been held with ESCC, Sustrans and Hastings Urban Bikes (HUB) to develop the detail and design of the route.
5. As a shared use route, additional signage and markings will be kept to a minimum and restricted to areas where potential hazards have been identified. In addition a number of items of street furniture will be moved to create clearer paths for pedestrians and cyclists.
6. We will work closely with Sustrans and HUB in the run-up to the opening of the link to promote its considerate use and have also committed to monitor usage and make any adaptations necessary.

## Consultation

7. Early consultation has involved site visits to Worthing seafront (which already has a successful shared use promenade route) with the representatives from the Seniors Forum, Hastings & Rother Disability Forum, HUB, Councillors and officers.
8. The draft design and plan for the route and a 'seafront cycle code' will be subject to wider consultation at two public exhibitions on 2nd April at the Connect2 Day (Café on the Beach, Glyne Gap) and Pelham Beach on 8th/9th April. They will also be subject to a 3-stage safety audit by ESCC.
9. We have consulted the Coastal Users Group who have expressed their support. They have requested that we consider the provision of cycle stands in the Stade area and that we liaise with the Fishermen's Protection Society over any concerns they may have at the eastern terminus of the route.

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**Wards Affected**

Castle, Central St. Leonards, Old Hastings, West St. Leonards

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**Area(s) Affected**

Central Hastings, East Hastings, South St. Leonards

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**Policy Implications**

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No

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**Background Information**

Cycle route map  
Sign layout

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**Officer to Contact**

Nick Sangster  
nsangster@hastings.gov.uk  
01424 451138

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The appendices: cycle route map and sign layout for this report cannot be published on the Council's website. A copy may be obtained from Elaine Wood, Principal Committee Administrator, email [ewood@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:ewood@hastings.gov.uk) or tel. 01424 451717.