

## Tamar Trails Infrastructure Renewal

In 2006, the Borough Council committed to act as the Accountable Body for the delivery of the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project (TVMHP). This was a project predominantly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the project saw investment of over £7m between 2007 and 2012/13 to conserve and provide new access to the mining heritage of the Devon side of the Tamar Valley. The TVMHP invested at a landscape scale including provision of an extensive 25km network of trails.

The trails are permissive trails (not part of the Public Rights of Way network) established by a variety of leases between the Borough Council and landowners for a 30 year period (expiring 2038) which were initially agreed to secure the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. For many of these trails, the Borough Council has ultimate responsibility for the trail and infrastructure maintenance as dictated by the lease terms.

To date the Borough Council has been spending around £15,000 per annum on monitoring, repairs and maintenance.

Timber infrastructure along the trails has now been in situ between 10-15yrs and items are failing which is as to be expected for timber within this environment, such that one trail (Bedford Trail) has recently been closed due to being unsafe.

It is likely that various timber infrastructure will fail over the next 5 years as the midpoint of the legacy is reached. As leaseholder and upholding funding contract commitments, the Borough Council is required to ensure safe access to the Trails. Given the nature of failure of timber infrastructure, this goes above usual repairs and maintenance and requires capital spend on infrastructure renewals.

A number of pieces of failed/failing equipment on the Bedford Trail are critical to safe passage along the trails, including steps, boardwalk bridges, post and cable fences, and renewal of these will be essential before this trail can be reopened.

It is therefore recommended that Members approve the following addition to the Capital Programme to be financed from the Budget Surplus Contingency Reserve.

| <b>Financial year</b> | <b>Budget</b>  |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2023/24               | £35,000        |
| 2024/25               | £10,000        |
| 2025/26               | £10,000        |
| <b>Total cost</b>     | <b>£55,000</b> |