

Little Ouse Waterspace Study
Report of Tina Cunnell, Town Clerk, Thetford Town Council

Summary

This report seeks board support for the aims and objectives of the Little Ouse Waterspace study.

Recommendations

- (i) The board produces an open letter of support (which can be used to support funding applications)
- (ii) The board lobbies in support of the studies objectives when opportunities for specific projects arise.

1. Background

- 1.1 Breckland District Council and Thetford Town Council and have prepared a high level Waterspace Study for the River Little Ouse from Brandon lock to Thetford Mill. The purpose of the Study is to help provide a vision for the waterspace to inform and assist partner organisations, statutory authorities, key stakeholders and potential external funding bodies to deliver sustainable regeneration of the river corridor.
- 1.2 The Study was created by working with a wide range of partners, including the Environment Agency to create an integrated approach to promoting Thetford as a waterway destination, while maintaining the uniqueness of the cultural heritage and valuable wildlife rich landscape of the River Little Ouse.

2. Aims

- To help redefine Thetford as a 'waterway destination' and develop water and land based activities along the River Little Ouse.
- To inform and complement Thetford Town Council's and other key partners vision for the regeneration of the river in both the short and long terms.
- To identify opportunities to promote access to new or enhanced water-based activities (including associated services and infrastructure).

3. Key Objectives

- To integrate existing and proposed land uses along the river corridor with the existing and proposed water based activities and facilities.

- To capitalise on the river corridor as a linear recreation, tourism and transport resource and identify further physical, environmental and recreational improvements, which will sustain and provide new jobs and economic opportunities.
- To identify improvements in the provision for paddle sports, slipways, canoe portages and in the long-term boaters' facilities and visitor moorings along the study area.
- To recognise 'Access for All' and the importance of open space in enhancing the waterway corridor by the promotion of sport, healthy outdoor recreation and visual amenity.
- To protect and enhance the river and adjoining watercourses as wildlife corridors. Manage the implications of increased recreational pressure and protect sensitive areas in accordance with the relevant environmental legislation.
- Produce high-level design and development guidelines including where possible costings at strategic and site specific locations together with a programme of achievable actions.

4. Contribution to Board Objectives

The regeneration of the Little Ouse and riverside will contribute to multiple board objectives related to public health, connectivity, local economy and Greater Thetford as a destination of choice.

5. Recommendations

- (i) The board produces and open letter of support (which can be used to support funding applications).
- (ii) The board lobbies in support of the studies objectives when opportunities for specific projects arise.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name	Telephone Number	Email address
Tina Cunnell	01842 768541	TinaCunnell@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Background Documents

Full Waterspace Study Report: <http://www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/download/20177/>