

Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



Subject:	Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails Accessibility Improvements
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Nasir Dad, Director of Environment
Decision maker: Cabinet Member	Cllr C Goodwin, Portfolio Holder, Transport & Highways
Decision date:	19 September 2025
Report author:	Liam Kennedy, PROW Officer
Ward (s):	Saddleworth North

Reason for decision

The Council has successfully secured 100% Grant funding from the DEFRA 'Access for All Grant' towards accessibility improvements on the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails. These improvements will enable usage by those who would otherwise be unable to access the trails due to protected characteristics (e.g. mobility/visual impairment).

Recommendation

To accept the offer of 100% grant funding, award the works to C P Y Excavations and approve the delivery of 3 schemes detailed in this report.

Background

To date, Oldham Council has secured an additional £26,149.50 (100% grant funded) from the DEFRA 'Access for All Grant' towards accessibility improvements on both the Pennine Way and the Pennine Bridleway. The initial Purchase Orders for the works will be funded from the Public Rights of Way Capital Budget (M0983) then reclaimed, in full, before financial year end 2025/2026. This amount consists of 3 separate offers for 3 separate schemes:

Scheme 1:

Brun Clough Car Park>Keepers Cottage – This includes improvement of existing surface conditions to create a reasonably smooth, level surface with approximately 1.5m width and appropriate drainage as well as the replacement of the existing field gate adjacent to Brun Clough Reservoir with a new two-way self-closing bridle gate with easy latch (to British Standard BS5709:2018). These improvements will open up access to a wider Network of people who are currently unable to access the route due to mobility and visual impairment.

Scheme 2:

Brun Clough Car Park>Pennine Way – This includes improvement of existing surface conditions to create a reasonably smooth, level surface with approximately 1.5m width and appropriate drainage around the rear of the car park creating an accessible, step free link to the Pennine Way to the East. These improvements will open up access to a wider Network of people who are currently unable to access the route due to mobility and visual impairment.

Scheme 3:

Pennine Way Erosion/Depressions - This includes surfacing works to remove existing deep depressions that hold water all year round thereby reducing the width of the route to a degree that it cannot be traversed other than on foot by a narrow margin. Further to filling in the depressions the surface will be reinstated to a reasonably smooth, level surface with appropriate drainage to ensure longevity. These improvements will open up access to a wider Network of people who are currently unable to access the route due to mobility and visual impairment.

As per CPR requirements, 3 written quotations have been obtained and are detailed below;

1. **Rowan Ashworth Ltd** - £50,871.80 + vat (£61,046.16)
2. **Rhodes & Sons Construction Ltd** - £27,103.52 + vat (£32,524.22)
3. **C P Y Excavations Ltd** - £26,149.50 + vat (£31,379.40)

Alternative option to be considered

Not to accept the offer of grant funding and not progress the schemes detailed above. There is no guarantee that 100% match funding from DEFRA will be available in future years.

Consultation

The Ward Members have been consulted and Councillor P Byrne approves all three schemes. Councillor G Harkness, happy with going ahead with the schemes and I am pleased at the grant funding for this. Councillor L Lancaster, I believe that I have already corresponded with Liam in support of this, but for the avoidance of doubt, I am in favour of the recommendation.

Risks

The scheme will be unable to be delivered and the works undertaken with no assurance or guarantee that a similar level of funding from the YDNPA will be available next financial year.

Implications

Financial	<p>The Council has been awarded £26,149.50 from the DEFRA Access for All Grant to complete further drainage works on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail and Pennine Way.</p> <p>The proposed works are capital and will be charged to the Transport Capital Programme (M0983).</p> <p>The works will be fully defrayed in 2025/26.</p> <p>Leonnie Wharton-Brown, Senior Accountant</p>
Legal	None (A Evans)
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	None
Procurement	<p>As per CPR rule 5.3, 3 quotes between £30,000 and £99,999 are permitted with the approval of the Head of Commercial Procurement Unit.</p> <p>Head of Procurement (Interim) permitted 3 quotations process. Reason for permitting 3 quotation process instead of a more formal process of closed tender was that market is limited for this type of works and the works needs to be completed as early as possible before the winter weather sets in.</p> <p>Lowest cost supplier has been chosen and represents value for money. Operations have already confirmed that the preferred supplier has the relevant experience to carry out quality work.</p> <p>Council have used CPY for at least the last 4 years. CPY undertake works on Public Rights of Way for other Local Authorities also including Lancashire County Council.</p> <p>Stakeholder has confirmed above and their experience and capability.</p> <p>S Kapoor (Commercial Procurement Unit)</p>

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No
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Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

There are no background papers for this report.

Report author sign-off	Liam Kennedy
Role	Public Rights of Way Officer
Date of sign-off	19 September 2025

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	Nasir Dad
Role	Director of Environment
Date of sign-off	19.09.25