

**MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL
CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP
20TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

CORRIDOR STUDY CURRENT STATUS

1. Copies of the Corridor Study have been previously deposited in the Members Library. The Study comprises Volume 1 - Technical Report, Volume 2 - Appendices and Volume 3 - Public Consultation Exercise Response Summary.

2. The Corridor Study sets out a three stage enhancement and restoration strategy for the Canal: -

Stage 1 - which would enhance the existing Canal through Caerphilly County Borough Council's area. This would complete the safety, flood control and environmental works commenced in 2001.

Stage 2 - which would result in full restoration to navigable standards of the Canal between Cwmcarn and Fourteen Locks Visitor Centre at Newport. This would implement works to provide a formal turning facility for canal craft and visitor centre at Cwmcarn and allow craft to navigate the six existing obstructions located at Darran Road, Navigation Road, Gelli Avenue, Thistle Way and Manor Road within the County Borough and at Pont-y-Mason Lane and Ruskin Avenue within Newport.

Stage 3 -- which examines further enhancement of the Canal that could result from restoration to navigation of the main line of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and re-establishing the link between the Crumlin Arm and the main line within Newport City Council.

3. On 2nd August 2005 Cabinet considered and Council subsequently approved a report that implemented a clear action plan in respect of the non-financial recommendations of the Corridor Study Report.

4. The approved recommendations in relation to non-financial elements were: -

That Members note the content, conclusions and recommendations of the Corridor Study and the proposals set out in the Study's Action Plan to implement works to facilitate the development of and, in due course, the restoration of the Canal to navigable standard.

That Members note the response received from the public to the proposals and recommendations set out in the Corridor Study following the consultation exercise.

That Members support the establishment of a formal Working Group comprising the affected Local Members for the length of the Canal under the Council's ownership and control.

That Members reaffirm their support that the Council continue its involvement and work with the Canals Partnership with the aim of restoring the whole of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal network by 2020.

That Members note the need for the conclusions and recommendations of the Corridor Study to be taken account of during the preparation and development of the Local Development Plan. In the interim the Canal corridor to be safeguarded under development control procedures.

5. The 2nd August report contained a further recommendation in relation to the various Corridor Study recommendations that required an associated financial commitment, namely: -

That a further detailed report in respect of the outstanding financial Corridor Study recommendations 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11 be prepared by officers in liaison/consultation with the Member Working Group and in conjunction with the Capital Strategy Group.

6. The proposed "Terms of Reference" of this Working Group fully reflect the content of the recommendations approved by Council on 2nd August 2005.
7. A tabular summary of the proposed restoration strategy together with associated costs for implementation and the potential economic benefits resulting from the enhancement and restoration of the Canal is appended for information.

Appendix 1 – Restoration Strategy slide from past Cabinet presentation

Appendix 2 – Potential Economic Benefits slide from past Cabinet presentation.