

Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2013-2017

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members will recall that a draft revised version of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2013-2017 was put before them at their meeting of 11 June 2013.
- 1.2 This revised plan takes forward the actions and themes of the 2007-12 plan and updates them for the 2013-17 period. It also acts as a supporting document to the Local Transport Plan for Derby, LTP3. The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum acted as the statutory adviser on the improvement plan.
- 1.3 The 2013-2017 plan is the second part of a 10-year programme that began in 2007. It is proposed that a new plan, based on a full reassessment of the city's local rights of way network, will be published in 2017.
- 1.4 Taking up the recommendation of Overview and Scrutiny Board for a longer consultation period, we carried out an 11-week public consultation exercise from 21 August 2013 to 8 November 2013. At the time of writing, we have received four responses. A summary of consultation responses and Council comments is included in Appendix 2. A list of those organisations which were consulted, is included in Appendix 3. Any responses received after the time of writing will be reported verbally.
- 1.5 We have made minor amendments to the draft plan as a result of the consultation exercise. The final version of the improvement plan to be put before Council Cabinet, subject to any late consultation responses, is available on CMIS.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the results of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-2017 consultation exercise and make recommendations on the final improvement plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board is kept informed of this plan and has the opportunity to make comments on it before it is formally adopted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Derby's rights of way network is currently managed in accordance with the actions set out in its Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2007-2012. The Council was required to produce the five-year plan under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The plan was adopted in November 2007.
- 4.2 In the 2007-2012 plan, the Council was required to fully assess its local rights of way network and draw up actions listed in the Statement of Action chapter that would help us to ensure that the city's path network met the needs of its users.
- 4.3 The need for a revised plan was driven by the number of new local and national policy and strategy documents which have been produced since 2007 and which will have a significant impact on the way public rights of way will be maintained, promoted and used.
- 4.4 The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum (DADLAF), which was formed in 2003, acted as the statutory adviser and has the same role for the 2013-2017 plan.
- 4.5 The 2013-2017 plan is comprised of five main chapters with supplementary appendices. The chapters headings are:
1. Introduction
 2. Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2007-2012
 3. Moving forward from the 2007-2012 Plan
 4. Statement of Action
 5. Monitoring and review

Appendix E contains 10 desirable walkway/cycleway routes, which it is considered could reasonably be implemented within the life of the plan.

- 4.6 The five aims of the 2007-2012 plan have been replaced by six aims in the 2013-2017 plan. The aims act as drivers for the actions listed in the Statement of Action, Chapter 4.

The aims are:

1. To support growth and economic competitiveness by delivering a more connected path network suitable for all users
2. To contribute to tackling climate change by developing and promoting multiuser routes and low-carbon travel choices
3. To provide learning and health benefits for people by promoting investment in multiuser routes.
4. To contribute to better safety and security for all people in Derby by improving safety and security on all routes
5. To provide and promote greater choice and equality of opportunity for all by promoting investment in accessible multiuser routes
6. To improve the quality of life for all people in Derby by promoting investment in multiuser routes that enhances the urban and natural environment and sense of place.

- 4.7 The statutory guidance on rights of way improvement plans, published in 2002, instructed local highway authorities to assess and review their plans “not more than 10 years after publication and at intervals of not less than 10 years thereafter.” The Council chose to produce two 5-year plans, rather than a single 10-year plan in order that actions would not become too outdated. The 2007-2012 plan can be considered to be the first part of a 10-year programme and the 2013-2017 plan, the second part. It is proposed that a new fully revised plan, based on a reassessment of the city’s local rights of way network, will be published in 2017.

- 4.8 The draft plan underwent an 11-week public consultation exercise. A summary of the consultation responses and our comments on them can be found in Appendix 2. A list of those organisations which were consulted, is included in Appendix 3. The final plan is scheduled to be put before Council Cabinet for final approval on 11 December 2013.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Christine Durrant None
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Ray Brown 01332 642114 ray.brown@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Summary of consultation responses and Council comments Appendix 3 - List of organisations consulted for the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2013-17 Appendix 4 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2013-2017 (see the Agenda papers on CMIS)

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 No new costs arise directly from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 An up-to-date plan is required under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The plan will provide and promote greater choice and equality of opportunity for all by promoting investment in accessible multiuser routes.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 The plan will contribute to tackling climate change by developing and promoting multiuser routes and low-carbon travel choices.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 No specific impacts on Council owned land or property.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The plan takes forward all the Council's corporate objectives.

Responses to consultation and Council comments**Courts and Inquiries Officer, Derbyshire****Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

Impressed with the document, which was considered to be well thought out and presented.

Considered that the publishing of the Definitive Map and Statement for Derby does not directly contribute to the improvement of the path infrastructure and that it should have its own section in the main text of the Statement of Action, Chapter 4.

Willing to assist the Council with its Definitive Map order making on a voluntary basis if appropriate.

Council response

We accept the point that the publishing of the definitive map would not directly contribute towards the improvement of the path infrastructure in the city. We have restructured the main text of the Statement of Action accordingly.

We welcome the offer of assistance from the Society's Courts and Inquiries Officer and will examine how best we can use it.

Pauline Latham, Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire, Respondent A and Respondent B

Mrs Latham and two other respondents requested that the improvement plan include a pedestrian/cycle route running north of Haslam's Lane through to Ford Lane, Little Eaton that links in with the cycle path that leads to the Abbey Hill junction. They considered that the proposed cycle route could be created in conjunction with the flood prevention measures that are planned for the area in the near future.

They considered that the route would provide a safer and more convenient alternative to the existing section of National Cycle Network from Darley Abbey to Little Eaton.

Council response

We accept the need to promote a pedestrian/cycle route north of Haslam's Lane linking Derby's existing Riverside Path with the existing cycle route near Abbey Hill, Little Eaton and have included it in the plan as Scheme 10 in Appendix E, although we've also noted the difficulties associated with implementing such a scheme.

List of organisations consulted for the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the City of Derby 2013-17

Government departments and agencies

Defra
Natural England
Sport England - East Midlands
Environment Agency
Highways Agency

Local authorities

Derby City Council Neighbourhood managers on behalf of Boards & Forums
Derbyshire County Council
South Derbyshire District Council
Amber Valley Borough Council
Erewash Borough Council

Walking

The Ramblers' Association
Derby and South Derbyshire Ramblers' Association
Findern Footpaths Group
Derby Nomads
Nottingham and Derby Walking Group (Ramblers' Assoc. group)
The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

Horse riding

The British Horse Society
BHS East Midlands
British Driving Society (carriage driving)

Cycling

Derby Cycling Group
CTC Derby Section
Sustrans

Motor vehicles

Auto-Cycle Union
LARA (Motorists' Land Access and Recreation Association)

Other transport

Byways and Bridleways Trust
Campaign for Better Transport (was Transport 2000)
Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust
Network Rail

Disability groups

Sight Support Derbyshire
Derbyshire Mind
Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living

Other user groups

The Open Spaces Society
Derby Civic Society
Derby Access Group

Land management

National Farmers Union
Country Land and Business Association
Home Builders Federation
Severn Trent Water Ltd
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Environment

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
CPRE
CPRE - Derbyshire
TCV Derbyshire
Canal and Rivers Trust
Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield & Mansfield

Education

University of Derby
Derby College
Derby Schools Circular

Other

Derbyshire Police
Derby 'Friends' of' groups (local voluntary groups who work on our Local Nature Reserves)
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site
Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum
Derbyshire County Council