

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date of Meeting: 17th January 2011
Report of: Greenspaces Manager
Subject/Title: Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Knowles

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026. A full copy of the Improvement Plan will be available at the meeting and may also be viewed as a background document attached to the online version of the agenda.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 be approved.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 On 4th October 2010, the Cabinet Member approved the Draft Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan for public consultation. This public consultation has now been conducted and amendments made accordingly.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Wards.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Members.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change/Health - Health

- 6.1 The development of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is aligned with the health and wellbeing objectives and priorities of the Council as stated in the Corporate Plan (2.1.1 Encouraging healthier lifestyles), the Local Area Agreement (National Indicator 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation) and the Health and Wellbeing Service commitment to the Change4Life initiative.

- 6.2 In addition, the ROWIP, as an integrated part of the Local Transport Plan, will be set within the context of the Local Area Agreement indicators concerning air quality and CO₂ emissions.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The ROWIP strategy document contains the policies and initiatives of the relevant sections of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3). The strategy sets out what the Council will aim to do during the period 2011-2026, although no financial commitment is made. Funding sources, which will include external grants, will be identified through the implementation plans for the LTP/ROWIP.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 It is a statutory duty under section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for every local highway authority to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- 8.2 Non-compliance with the requirement for the full integration of the ROWIP with the LTP3 could result in criticism from statutory monitoring bodies and agencies.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 No risks identified.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The current ROWIP covering Cheshire East expires in March 2011. Therefore a new ROWIP is required.
- 10.2 It is a requirement for the ROWIP to be integrated into the LTP3. Therefore, whilst the background chapters 1-4 are specific to the ROWIP, the content of chapter 5 is common across the 2 documents; within this chapter the policies and initiatives of the strategy are laid out.
- 10.3 Public consultation has included the prescribed list of consultees given in Section 61(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- 10.4 On 13th December 2010 the Public Rights of Way Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member that the document be approved.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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