

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date of Meeting:	14 th March 2011
Report of:	Green Spaces Manager
Subject/Title:	Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026: Implementation Plan 2011-2015

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026: Implementation Plan 2011-2015.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That** the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 Implementation Plan 2011-2015 be approved.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 On 13th December 2010, the Public Rights of Way Committee gave the Green Spaces Manager the delegated powers to compile, having consulted with the Chairman of the Public Rights of Way Committee, the Implementation Plan based on a prioritisation methodology that was presented. The Plan has now been finished and is put forward for approval.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Wards affected.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Local Ward Members.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The development of the 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, is set within the context of the Local Area Agreement indicators concerning air quality and CO₂ emissions.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Funding sources, which will include external grants, are identified in the Implementation Plan, but are not committed as the funding is unknown and the actual projects developed may vary from those presented in the Plan.

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 matters arising.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 On 17th January 2011 the Portfolio Holder approved the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 which sets out the strategy for this period. The projects which are to be delivered over the first 4 years under this strategy are compiled into an Implementation Plan.
- 10.2 Suggestions for improvement projects have been submitted, during the development of the ROWIP, by officers, members of the public, user groups and community groups. These suggestions have then been prioritised by the methodology presented to the Committee in December 2010 which was selected and amended by the Cheshire Local Access Forum. This methodology takes into account the benefits of the scheme in the context of local need.
- 10.3 The highest priority suggestions have been selected for each category of suggestion: walking, cycling, horse riding, transport-related and cross-cutting projects. It is intended that these suggestions be investigated and developed first, with the acknowledgement that some may not be feasible and other opportunities may arise through partnerships and developments that result in alternative projects being taken forward.
- 10.4 On 13th December 2010, the Public Rights of Way Committee gave the Green Spaces Manager the delegated powers to compile, having consulted with the Chairman of the Public Rights of Way Committee, the Implementation Plan based on the prioritisation methodology.
- 10.5 Monitoring and reporting shall be undertaken through annual progress reporting.

11.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Genni Butler
Designation: Countryside Access Development Officer
Tel No: 01606 271817
Email: genni.butler@cheshireeast.gov.uk