

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **Public Rights of Way Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17 March 2011</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Green Spaces Manager</b>
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	<b>Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026: Notification of Implementation Plan 2011-2015</b>

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report presents the first 4 year implementation plan under the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2011-2026.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Implementation Plan 2011-2015, of the Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026, shown in Appendix 1, be noted.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Implementation Plan 2011-2015 was put before the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing on 14 March 2011 for approval. The report presents the Implementation Plan for information purposes.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All Wards affected.

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All Local Ward Members.

### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health**

- 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 (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 ROWIP and LTP3.

## **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 In December 2010, the Committee saw the final ROWIP document which sets out the strategy by which the Council aims to improve the public rights of way over the next 15 years. This document was approved by the Portfolio Holder on 17 January 2011.
- 10.2 The ROWIP must set out a statement of action detailing how the authority will implement improvements: these will be set out in 4-yearly implementation plans, the first of which is shown in Appendix 1.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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.

10.5 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](mailto:genni.butler@cheshireeast.gov.uk)