

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Consultation and Engagement Plan

Name of engagement / consultation activity:	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Senior Responsible Officer (SRO):	Carole Hyde, Head of Service, Rural and Cultural Economy
Project Manager (PM) (if part of a project):	Genni Butler, Countryside Access Development Manager
Other Project Team members and roles (if part of a project):	Nicola Lewis-Smith, Public Rights of Way Manager
Service / team:	Green Infrastructure, Rural and Cultural Economy

The outcome of this Consultation and Engagement will report to:	
Name	Role
Vacant	Green Infrastructure Manager
Carole Hyde	Head of Service, Rural and Cultural Economy

Version control:			
Version	Author	Date	Description
v1	Genni Butler	13/03/2025	Initial draft
V2	Genni Butler	17/07/2025	Amended following comments from Senior Intelligence Officer – Consultation

Consultation and Engagement purpose and background: An explanation of the issues and the purpose of the project, key information to set the scene.

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). The [current one](#) expires in 2026. The ROWIP has to assess:

- the extent to which the local Public Rights of Way network meets the present and future needs of the public
- the opportunities provided by local Public Rights of Way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the local authority's area
- the accessibility of local Public Rights of Way for blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Share the assessment of the network and demand
- Identify the main issues
- Invite representations and suggestions

Strategic Objectives: What the key strategic objectives of the project are, and how these relates to the corporate plan.

The ROWIP will include a vision, objectives and statement of action for the management of PROW and other countryside access routes. This is aligned with the Corporate Plan Commitments

1: Unlocking prosperity for all:

2: Improving health and wellbeing

3: An effective and enabling council

Stakeholders and methods: A summary of the people and groups you want to engage / consult with from your stakeholder analysis including impacted groups from your equality impact assessment. The methods you will use to gather information, based on the best ways to target your key audiences, or impacted groups.

Stakeholder	Method	What stage
Internal colleagues	Online survey 1-2-1 conversations	Preparatory stage
Key external partners	1-2-1 conversations	Preparatory stage
User groups	Countryside Access Forum and Rights of Way Consultative Group meetings	Preparatory stage
Members	Committee report Members' briefing	Preparatory stage
Public: local residents, local communities, organisations	External consultation	Public consultation

Activity plan: The time to take for each stage including preparation, live engagement / consultation, analysis phase and feedback phase.

Activity	Who / team responsible	Estimated date / timescales
Internal colleagues	PROW Team	April 2025
Key external partners	PROW Team	May 2025
User groups	PROW Team	June 2025
Members	PROW Team/Democratic Services/Comms	September 2025
Public: local residents, local communities, organisations	PROW Team/RandC	October – December 2025

Analysis, Reporting and feedback: How will analysis be carried out / how will the draft feedback be reported and shared with participants.

Analysis tools and expertise required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback gained during the preparatory stage recorded through online survey results spreadsheet, meeting notes and comments marked up by stakeholders in draft documents • Online survey response to include interactive mapping tool – assistance from RandC team required – proposal to use Planning team software package • Email to rowip@cheshireeast.gov.uk • Post to PROW team office address • Online survey response including interactive mapping tool – assistance from RandC team required • Feedback on the outcome of the consultation will be provided to the public through the review of the draft ROWIP and publication of the final ROWIP to be adopted via Committee approval
Reporting required:	
Public feedback methods:	

Risk Assessment: What are the anticipated risks and mitigations?

Risk	Mitigation
Time delays	Early planning and liaison with RandC team
Interactive mapping technical issues	Early liaison with software provider