

DRAFT



Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011 - 2026

Implementation Plan 2015 - 2019

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1 ROWIP policies and initiatives

Introduction

1.1 In April 2011, Cheshire East Council published its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2011-2026 which set out the strategy by which the Council aims to improve Public Rights of Way (PROW) and countryside access across the Borough.

1.2 The publication of a ROWIP is a statutory duty of the Council under section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. The aim of a ROWIP was given as to:-

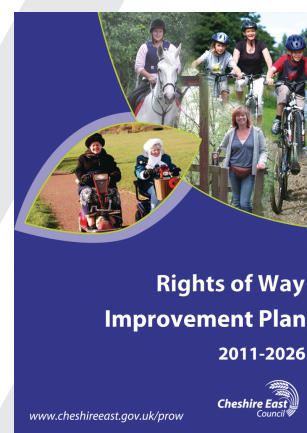
- Assess the extent to which local rights of way and other countryside access resources meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
- Assess opportunities for exercise and other forms of open air recreation and enjoyment of the authority's area; and,
- Assess the accessibility of local rights of way and other routes to blind or partially-sighted people and others with mobility problems.

1.3 The ROWIP has 5 chapters:-

1. Introduction - an explanation of what the ROWIP is and how it was produced;
2. Evaluation of Cheshire's ROWIP 2006-2011 - an assessment of successes and ongoing challenges;
3. Network assessment - a description of what countryside access is available to the public in Cheshire East;
4. Demand assessment - a description of what people want from Public Rights of Way and countryside access at the present time and future demand trends; and,
5. What we need to do - listing policies and initiatives through which we aim to make improvements. These are common to the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3).

1.4 The policies and initiatives stated in chapter five state what we need to do and are repeated below. For full background details please read the ROWIP strategy available at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/prow.

1.5 The CROW Act also requires local authorities to prepare a statement of action listing the projects through which improvements could be made to Public Rights of Way and wider countryside access. These statements of action are contained within 4-yearly implementation plans, this being the second. National and local structures and funding mechanisms have changed since the writing of the first implementation plan, and will continue to change. For example, austerity measures, the development of the Local Plan and



1 ROWIP policies and initiatives

Local Economic Plan and the revision of the Local Transport Plan have and will affect the delivery of the aspirations set out in this document. However, the agendas to which the following policies and initiatives are aligned are, if anything, stronger, with increased need for sustainable travel, healthy activities and enhanced green space.

Policy H2: Promotion of active travel and healthy activities

Work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities

Promote opportunities and facilities: highlight opportunities for active travel and healthy activity by promoting new and existing facilities using appropriate media such as signage, walking and cycling maps, leaflets, events, internet sites and other technologies. This will focus on routes and sites that are accessible by modes of active travel or public transport (such as important leisure routes or key employment locations) and will involve working with health agencies, help to promote active travel and other activities as a lifestyle choice for all ages amongst our residents and visitors. Close working with the Peak District National Park Authority and other visitor organisations to provide helpful information and promote a consistent and warm welcome to visitor attractions.

Organised walks, rides and activities: undertake and support organised walks, rides and other activities which encourage people to partake in healthy activities that they may not otherwise have the confidence or knowledge to do.

Public information on the public rights of way network: enhance the accuracy of the Definitive Map and Statement to provide an up to date and accessible format. This will facilitate changes to the network, through the necessary legal processes, for the benefit of landowners and the public.



1 ROWIP policies and initiatives

Policy H3: Public rights of way and green infrastructure

Protect and enhance our public rights of way and green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health, safety or access to green spaces

Sustainable access to green spaces: aim to improve access for all members of society, including disabled people, to and within green infrastructure, including the public rights of way network, town parks, public open space, the Peak District National Park and country parks.

Link key services: seek to improve the routes and green infrastructure that link key services (e.g. schools, community centres and tourism destinations) by routes and green infrastructure such as canal towpaths. Investments will include improving surfacing and signage, where appropriate, and creating links where gaps exist in the network.

Leisure routes for cyclists, horse riders and walkers: endeavour to create and enhance leisure routes for cyclists, horse riders and walkers on the public rights of way network and highway network.

Litter, environmental health, safety and security: encourage users to reduce litter and will improve environmental health, safety and other security concerns through education and clean-up campaigns.

Country parks, town parks and public open space: ensure adequate maintenance and improvement of land within the Council's ownership that is used for formal and informal public access and recreation, at a local level and sites which are tourism destinations.



1 ROWIP policies and initiatives

Policy S7: Walking

Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys

Footway and footpath improvements: promote improvements to the condition of highway footways, footpaths and public rights of way. In particular, support the development, on safety grounds, of low cost measures, such as verge improvements. Consideration will also be given to resurfacing, removal of litter and other environmental health issues, provision of lighting and seating, where appropriate, and the removal of barriers and obstacles to open up more routes for more people, particularly those with pushchairs and disabled people. This initiative will also recognise the environmental and biodiversity benefits of creating attractive green spaces alongside walkways and cycleways.

New walking routes: support the development of new routes where required but not currently provided, such as on rural roads and in villages, and support initiatives to connect up the highway footway and public rights of way networks for greater pedestrian movement, including links to the canal system.

Pedestrian crossing points: support the provision of safe crossing points, wide pavements, dropped kerbs and other pedestrian facilities where necessary to encourage travel on foot and improve perceptions of safety along routes and make routes more accessible to disabled people.

Route signing: promote the signing of dedicated on- and off-road pedestrian routes to encourage greater use by pedestrians. Initiatives will include the provision of signs relaying destination, distance and time information.



1 ROWIP policies and initiatives

Policy S8: Cycling

Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys

New cycle routes: seek to provide appropriate highways improvements (e.g. on-road cycle lanes or wide nearside lanes) and off-road routes to make commuter cycling a safe and quick alternative to car use. Focus will be on creating a network of joined-up routes catering for a range of cycle skill levels and will capitalise on the potential of the canal system for cyclists.

Junction and route improvements for cyclists: promote the provision of filter lanes, advanced stop lines and toucan crossings, where applicable, to prioritise and enhance the safety of cyclists at junctions. Undertake surfacing and lighting improvements on existing key links. Such measures will be incorporated into the design of new or amended highways, as well as retrospectively to existing road junctions, where possible.

Cycle facilities: work to provide greater access to cycling facilities (e.g. cycle parking, changing facilities, showers, hire & ride schemes) in town centres, at community facilities (e.g. libraries) and service and employment centres.

Route signing: encourage a greater uptake of cycling through the provision of route signs which state the destination, distance and journey time to selected destinations, to complement other sources of information.



Progress to date

- 2.1** During the 4 years since the publication of the first ROWIP implementation plan, the Public Rights of Way team have delivered numerous improvements to meet the aspirations of the public and local organisations. Indeed, the everyday and ongoing work of the whole Public Rights of Way team, spanning network management and legal order processes, improves the public rights of way network.
- 2.2** Each year, an annual report is prepared to review the work of the Public Rights of Way team. This report includes work delivered under the ROWIP. The annual reports can be viewed at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/prow, and elements are summarised below.

Length of network and availability to different users

- 2.3** In 2010, the length of the PROW network in Cheshire East totalled 1934.5km. That figure has been increased to 1947.2km as a result of the creation of new PROW and the diversion of existing routes, some cases of which will result in a net increase in the length of the path, whilst other cases may result in a net decrease.
- 2.4** This increase in length has been seen in the categories of Public Footpath and Public Bridleway, both of which are available to pedestrians. Horse riders and cyclists, who can use each of the categories of PROW other than Public Footpaths, can now use 7.9% of the network, compared to 7.6% in 2010. This proportion remains low despite a number of relatively long Public Bridleways that were created during the first Implementation Plan.

Table 1 Length of Public Rights of Way network

Category of PROW	Length in 2010 (km)	Length in 2015 (km)
Public Footpath	1787	1793
Public Bridleway	104	112
Restricted Byway	36	36
Byway Open to All Traffic	7	7
Total	1935	1947

2 Progress to date

Ease of use of the PROW network

- 2.5** The Public Rights of Way team undertakes path inspections on the basis of the former national Best Value Performance Indicator 178: the percentage of paths deemed 'easy to use'. Each year, a random survey of 5% of the PROW network is undertaken to establish a benchmark indicator, although it is recognised that it is not a full quality audit. 'Ease of use' takes in to account the availability of the route (i.e. not obstructed), and that the statutory signposting is in place. The results returned for Cheshire East Council are shown below.

Table 2 Annual random 'ease of use' survey results

Year	Ease of use of network (%)
2008	69
2009	84
2010	85
2011	84
2012	80
2013	83
2014	77
Average	80

Benchmarking against other authorities

- 2.6** Two benchmarking exercises undertaken in 2012/2013 compared authorities from around the country. The full reports, which can be read on the PROW webpages at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/prow, found that the Public Rights of Way team at Cheshire East Council works efficiently by:-

- delivering a joint-second highest 'ease of use' of network score;
- working with a below-average budget per km length of network;
- securing some of the lowest per item costs for furniture materials and installation;
- maintaining a manageable waiting list of Definitive Map Modification Order applications by progressing through casework efficiently; and,
- delivering a sustainable future workload projection that balances public expectations, resources and statutory duties for the determination of Definitive Map Modification Order applications.

2 Progress to date

Network management and legal order tasks

2.7 As described previously, the Public Rights of Way team work can be categorised into network management and legal order processes. The tables below summarises the work undertaken during the period of the last Implementation Plan, 2011-2015, both of which describe an increasing workload and output.

Table 3 Network management tasks completed 2011-2015

Task	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-2015	Total
Fingerpost signs erected	228	299	270	231	1028
Enforcement notices issued to landowners/managers	16	12	17	17	62
Enforcement warnings issued to landowners/managers	27	30	33	25	115
Stiles installed	260	181	252	251	944
Kissing gates installed	18	73	89	81	261
Bridleway gates installed	9	4	6	11	30
Pedestrian gates installed	17	22	17	16	72
Bridges installed	38	31	59	51	179
Length of network receiving annual vegetation maintenance	123km	131km	179km	125km	558km
Issues on network reported by public	529	509	611	661	2310

Table 4 Legal order tasks completed 2011-2015

Task	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Schedule 14 DMMO applications determined	2	2	2	1	7
schedule 14 applications under investigation	9	10	10	7	N/a
Schedule 14 applications registered	22	19	18	23	N/a

2 Progress to date

Task	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Anomalies resolved	6	0	0	2	N/a
Anomalies waiting list	260+	260+	280+	400+	N/a
Planning applications responded to	102	201	215	237	755
Search requests responded to	60	65	91	142	358
Section 31 deposits registered	6	8	3	1	18
Temporary and emergency closure notices processed	33	52	46	52	183
Gating orders processed	0	0	0	0	0
Public path orders confirmed	14	20	10	13	57
Public path orders in progress	28	20	18	17	N/a
Public path orders waiting list	14	28	28	43	N/a
Local Government Act Deed of Dedications made	0	2	3	0	5
Town and Country Planning Act public path orders confirmed	2	3	2	5	12
Town and Country Planning Act public path orders in progress	3	3	5	5	N/a

Usage data

- 2.8** It is recognised that the Council, as is common to other local authorities, had little in the way of data on PROW usage. The PROW team are therefore compiling data from available sources including environmental impact assessments undertaken ahead of new road schemes. A small number of automatic counters are in place on routes such as on the Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway and further automatic counters have been installed on the PROW network through which further datasets on PROW usage can be collated.
- 2.9** Data on the usage of PROW and wider countryside access routes can provide an indication of the value of the network to our residents and visitors. As a key example, from the usage of a toucan crossing on the Connect2 Crewe

2 Progress to date

to Nantwich Greenway where it crosses the A530 Middlewich Road, it is estimated that over 40,000 journeys are made on the route every year. Whilst other routes will receive fewer users, the network is highly valued, as was clearly indicated in research for the ROWIP strategy.

Working with volunteers

- 2.10** The Public Rights of Way team is ably assisted by a range of volunteers by being the 'eyes and ears' on the PROW network. Many individuals and user groups report in issues that they come across on the network in order that these can be resolved. Some of these reports are on an 'as arising basis' and others, submitted by the Ramblers local groups, take the form of more formal inspections of the network.
- 2.11** In addition, volunteers form a vital role in keeping the PROW network open and available through minor vegetation cutting and putting up waymark disks to guide users along the routes. 133 individuals have registered to carry a Letter of Authority to undertake these tasks whilst out walking or riding. A small number of local groups also arrange working parties on their local network, in close liaison with the PROW team, to undertake practical tasks including step replacements.

ROWIP projects

- 2.12** In addition to the above work, the PROW team deliver improvement projects which aim to meet the policies and initiatives of the ROWIP and which have been logged as aspirations of local communities. Many of these are delivered through the network management role of the team. Other, often larger scale projects, are frequently delivered in partnership with colleagues across the Council's departments, including those managing the Countryside Ranger Service, Cheshire East Highways, Assets and the Parks Development Team (now part of Ansa). Further, many projects are also delivered in partnership with, and sometimes driven by, local volunteer groups and parish and town councils and a range of other local and national bodies, and we are grateful to these groups and individuals for their work. The tables below summarise the ROWIP projects delivered during the term of the first Implementation Plan.

2 Progress to date

Table 5 ROWIP project achievements 2011-2012

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
H2 H3 S7 S8	T84	Stapeley Footpath No. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe links to school project funded through the Local Transport Plan's cycling projects with match funding from Sustrans. The path runs through a park area in a housing estate and connects to the local primary school, shops and other facilities. Previously muddy and rough surfaced, the path is now wider and tarmaced for all-year use. Cycle shelters were installed at the school and publicity raised to encourage their use.
H2 H3 S8	T82/95 T99 T43	LTP Cycling Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cycle Network routes 55 & 73 signage in Congleton. Cycle route link from the new Alderley Edge bypass to Astra Zeneca employment site. Leighton Greenway in Crewe.
H2 H3 S7	T24	Pickmere Footpath No. 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe links to school project in partnership with Pickmere Parish Plan and part funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The path runs from Pickmere village to the local primary school in Wincham and avoids a busy road. Previously un-surfaced, the path now has a compacted stone surface for all-year use.
H2 H3	W73	Wilmslow Footpath Nos. 89 and 134 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A path linking housing with the countryside and also used by an annual sponsored run. A compacted stone surface and steps were installed to resolve the muddy surface and slope problems.
H2 H3 S7	W69	Wistaston Joey-the Swan access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inaccessible restriction to park land along the Wistaston Brook. Access was improved through liaison between the Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway Stakeholder Group and Parks team.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
H2 H3 S7 S8	T100	Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a traffic-free cycle route between the two towns, funded by Sustrans and developer contributions. Led by our Highways Department and monitored by a Stakeholder Group, the project has already delivered cycle routes within Crewe and Nantwich towns. The remaining link to be established as a Public Bridleway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to use. Planning, Commons Land and Village Green applications submitted. Preparation of a creation agreement for a new Public Bridleway section to link the Crewe and Nantwich sections of the route.
H2 H3	C2	Congleton Bridleway No. 34 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolved drainage issues on Public Bridleway which leads from Buglawton estate onto the Macclesfield Canal towpath.
H2 H3 S7	W74	Alderley Edge Bypass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stone surfaced path was installed to connect the rural footpath network and pedestrian overbridge with the roadside cycle track, as suggested by consultees. Delivered through a Cheshire East Highways project.
H2 H3 S7 S8	T56	Poynton Footpath No. 30 and Adlington No. 76 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe links to school project funded by Sustrans and delivered by Economic Development in partnership with Poynton High School and Poynton Village Improvement Scheme. Routes have been widened, surfaced and drainage issues resolved. Destination signage and interpretation boards to encourage active travel have been installed.
H3	W15 W16	Road Safety Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultees have raised a number of locations of road safety concern, including those on promoted routes.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
	W18 W20 W22 H16 H17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety Officers in Highways consulted to assess risk and possible mitigation measures. Requests to adjacent landowners for permissive paths so as to remove road walking or improve crossing locations have been made.
H2 H3	X15	Long Distance Horse and Cycle Ride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated by Laureen Roberts of North Cheshire Riders, this project sees the development of Cheshire East's first long distance horse ride. Designed to offer a long distance ride bringing benefits to the local economy. The route, also being promoted to cyclists, consists of 2 loops: the Cheshire Cheese Loop and the Heritage Loop. Funded through a grants from the British Equestrian Federation, the British Horse Society, Hoof! Cheshire and contributions from local riding groups.
H2 H3	W75	Poynton Footpath No. 7 – Princes Incline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular wooded and relatively long route leading from Poynton village centre towards the Middlewood Way and Macclesfield Canal towpath. The only stile on the route was replaced by a medium mobility kissing gate in agreement with the landowner. A further section of the surface of the route was improved to resolve drainage issues and a muddy surface.
H2 H3	W67 X14	Nantwich Riverside Loop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A promoted, circular walking route linking the riverside and canal and encouraging people to explore that little bit further. Delivered with partners including Nantwich Riverside Stakeholders, British Waterways and multiple local organisations. Part funded by WREN grant. The project improved the route, installed signage and also improved disabled access to the lakeside path.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A launch event was held in May 2011 with associated publicity and an evaluation has been conducted on the value of the route and leaflet. A revised leaflet was published in the summer of 2011. Additional signage as suggested was installed to draw attention to the Loop from the northern riverside area. Planting of saplings to strengthen the towpath hedge completed the project.
H2 H3	H20	Ollerton Bridleway No. 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long route in a popular livery stable area, suffering from poor surface conditions in winter rendering it unusable. Surface improvements made to create a year-round route. 75% funded by contributions from local riders and riders' groups.
H2 H3	X15	Discover Cheshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.discovercheshire.co.uk. Website promoting routes, sites and visitor economy facilities in the countryside. Partners include Visitor Economy, CWAC, Mersey Forest. Many new walking and horse riding routes added including Knutsford Rail Walks and Wistaston Community Opportunities Group's walk.
H2 H3	X7 X15 W75	Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various stiles across Cheshire East have been replaced with gates with landowners' permission. This has included some promoted routes which are now stile-free, for example Chelford village walk and Ashley Rail Trail.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Planning Applications, Pre-Applications and Local Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications are commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding. Aspirations for active travel and leisure routes are compiled for large developments at the pre-application stage and thereafter.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer contributions through S106 agreements and unilateral undertakings are sought and delivered. Input from Public Rights of Way and Countryside perspective into Local Plan.
H2 H3	X15	Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press releases achieved for various projects and events including National Walking Month and National Bike Week. Feature article appeared in Cheshire East News on the Nantwich Riverside Loop. Astbury Mere Walk4Life route ranked as the 6th most visited route on national website.
S7 S8	n/a	Local Sustainable Transport Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bid has been prepared by Highways to this national government fund, focusing on smarter travel within Crewe. ROWIP suggestions and active travel included in bid.
S7 S8	n/a	A556 and SEMMMS road schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input of aspirations and comments on designs given from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding.
H2 H3	X15	Walks for All Leaflet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular leaflet describing accessible walks across Cheshire East. Revised and republished in the summer of 2011.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping provided to Cheshire East departments, for example for countryside grant applications, and third sector groups producing walks leaflets.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Rights of Way Consultative Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of reports and meetings. Establishment of register of volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2011-2012
H2	n/a	Cheshire Local Access Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat duties for Forum, a voluntary body which advises the Council on matters relating to countryside access.
H3		
S7		
S8		

2 Progress to date

Table 6 ROWIP project achievements 2012-2013

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2012-2013
H2 H3 S7 S8	T100	Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a traffic-free cycle route between the two towns, funded by Sustrans' Connect2 project. • Led by Cheshire East Highways with the support of a Stakeholder Group. • Central link between the towns established as a Public Bridleway via a creation agreement with landowner. • Official opening event held on first day of spring with 100 people attending and press publicity.
H2, H3	X7	Knutsford Rail Walks Leaflet Revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of leaflet with Local Area Partnership and Mid Cheshire Rail Users' Association. • Includes improved maps and directions to assist walkers.
H2 H3	W54	Goostrey Path North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Goostrey Footpath Group and Cheshire Farms Service to achieve long-held aspiration to create new Public Footpaths linking Goostrey village with the wider Public Rights of Way network. • Part-funded by Goostrey Footpath Group. • The Footpath Group are publishing a leaflet incorporating the new route into circular walk and have an official launched planned.
H2 H3	various	Paths for Communities Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and assistance to prospective applicants for Natural England's Paths for Communities fund. • Successful applications need to establish new Public Rights of Way. • Dane Meadow project in Holmes Chapel, see above, awarded grant.
H2 H3 S7	T85	Sandbach Footpath No. 33 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfacing of an urban Footpath to create a year-round walking route. • The route links housing with convenience store and forms a direct, off-road link towards the town centre for local residents. • Includes destination signage to encourage use.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2012-2013
H2 H3 S7 S8	T25	Dane Meadow Access Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice and assistance to Dane Meadow Programme Board in development of externally-funded project to improve access within Dane Meadow public open space in Holmes Chapel. Portfolio Holder and Committee approval secured to create new Public Rights of Way protecting public access for perpetuity.
H2 H3	X12 X15	Long Distance Horse and Cycle Ride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated by Laureen Roberts of North Cheshire Riders, this project sees the development of Cheshire East's first long distance horse ride. Designed to offer a long distance ride bringing benefits to the local economy. The route, also being promoted to cyclists, consists of 2 loops: the Cheshire Cheese Loop and the Heritage Loop. Funded through a grant from the British Equestrian Federation, the British Horse Society, Hoof! Cheshire and contributions from local riding groups. 2012-2013 saw the signage and publicity for the Heritage Loop route.
H3	W15 W16 W18 W20 W22 H16 H17	Road Safety Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultees have raised a number of locations of road safety concern, including those on promoted routes. Road Safety Officers in Highways consulted to assess risk and possible mitigation measures. Requests to adjacent landowners for permissive paths so as to remove road walking or improve crossing locations have been made, although unsuccessful to date. Warning triangles for drivers installed at promoted route crossing points.
H2 H3 S7	Various X7 X15 W75	Accessibility Improvements to Public Rights of Way Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of stiles with more accessible gates; Wilmslow Footpath No. 70 – improvements to walking route to schools; Aston by Budworth Footpath No. 3 – surface improvements;

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2012-2013
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adlington Footpath No. 52 – surface improvements and fencing; Alderley Edge Footpath No. 7 – boardwalk construction and surfacing; Disley Footpath No. 39 – surface improvements and fencing; Disley Footpath No. 50 – drainage and surface improvements; Lyme Handley Footpath No. 8 – revetment works and surfacing works; Wilmslow Restricted Byway No. 12 – surface improvements; Wilmslow Footpath No. 19 – boardwalk construction; Wilmslow Footpath No. 43 – surface improvements; Sutton Bridleway No. 28 – installation of a bridge over an incised stream where previously there was none; and, Bollington Footpath Nos. 30 & 31 – re-laying uneven paving stones and improvement of drainage on popular path along Kerridge Ridge.
H2	T1, X10	Assistance to Local User Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice and assistance to local user groups in their planning of access improvements and external funding bids, including: Disley Footpath Society towpath improvement project; Bollington Town Council and Canal and Rivers Trust for towpath improvements and links to the towpath in the town; Chelford Village Implementation Plan to improve access to village community hall and facilities including a new Public Right of Way; Sandbach Brook Wood path project; South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group; Henbury Parish Council permissive paths project; and, Church Minshull Parish Council permissive path project.
H3	T45	
S7	T2	
S8	W27	
S7	various	Local Sustainable Transport Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful result for Cheshire East's bid to this national government fund, focusing on smarter travel within Crewe. ROWIP suggestions and active travel included.
S8		
H2	various	Planning Applications, Pre-Applications and Local Plan

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2012-2013
H3 S7 S8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications are commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding, putting forward ROWIP aspirations. Developer contributions secured through section 106 agreements and unilateral undertakings. Input from Public Rights of Way and Countryside into Local Plan.
H2 H3 S7 S8	X15	Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press releases achieved for various projects and events including National Walking Month and the launch of the new Bollin Valley Cycle Trail for National Bike Week and the opening of the Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway. Twitter and Facebook feeds for all news items and additions of routes to Discover Cheshire website. Re-design of waymarks to include text to indicate status of Public Right of Way.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping provided to Cheshire East departments, including the Countryside Ranger Service for grant applications and management plans. Assistance with mapping for third sector groups producing walks leaflets. Mapping for London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay route, homecoming events and ancillary requirements. Plotting of all promoted routes onto CAMS GIS mapping database for ease of identification of issues and routes affected by planning applications and temporary closures.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Local Access Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat duties for Forum, a voluntary body which advises the Council on matters relating to countryside access. Recruitment advertising, selection and training for new Cheshire East Local Access Forum.
H2 H3	T82/95 T43	Local Transport Plan Cycling Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle route link from the new Alderley Edge bypass to Astra Zeneca employment site.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2012-2013
S8	T83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of Leighton Greenway in Crewe. Formalisation of cycle route between Solly Crescent and Newcastle Road, Congleton.
S7 S8	various	A556, SEMMMS and Crewe Green Link Road Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input of ROWIP aspirations and comments on designs given from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding.
H2 H3	X15	Discover Cheshire Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.discovercheshire.co.uk. Website promoting routes, sites and visitor economy facilities in the countryside. Partners include Visitor Economy, CWAC, Mersey Forest. New walking, cycling and horse riding routes added including the 2nd in the Getting to Know Willaston series, the Bollin Valley Way, the Bollin Valley Cycle Trail and 3 walks from the It's All About Alsager Series and 2 walks from the Hassall Green Explorer leaflet.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Rights of Way Consultative Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of reports and meetings. Management of register of volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority. Launch of pilot volunteer network survey to gather path furniture and surface information in 5 parishes and input that data into CAMS GIS mapping database for use by officers initially, and, in the long term, by the public via Interactive Mapping on the Council's website.

Table 7 ROWIP project achievements 2013-2014

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2013-2014
H2 H3	X7	Walks for All leaflet revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of leaflet suggesting 10 easy access walks in the borough. Provides full accessibility information including parking, public transport, gates, steps, gradients and toilets. Revised in partnership with Countryside Ranger Service. Includes improved maps and directions to assist walkers. Proving popular with rapid uptake by libraries, visitor information centres and other outlets.
H2 H3 S7 S8	W84 Various W20	Advice to local user groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice and assistance to local user groups in their planning of access improvements and external funding bids, including: Church Minshull Parish Council seeking a circular walk encompassing the canal towpath: access between the towpath and adjacent Footpath is to be improved by the Canal and River Trust as they undertake bridge works, South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group seeking to make paths available for cycling, East Cheshire Ramblers in seeking permissive path at Charles Head, Kettleshulme.
H2 H3 S7 S8	X15	Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press releases issued for projects underway and completed. Newsletters, Twitter and Facebook feeds for all news items.
H2 H3 S7	n/a	Congleton Footpath No. 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using s106 planning contributions secured to deliver improvements in the vicinity of developments. Surfacing part of an urban Footpath, Congleton No. 10, to create a year-round walking route. The route links residential areas with Astbury Mere Country Park and forms an off-road link towards the town centre. Includes destination signage to encourage usage and a more accessible gate arrangement in response to local requests.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2013-2014
H2 H3 S7 S8	T10 T92 T95 n/a	Local Transport Plan cycling schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacey Green, Wilmslow: improvement of paths between Lacey Green and Pownall Park areas of Wilmslow, linking to the new multi-user route through the Carrs park. Macon Meadows, Crewe: improvement of paths for shared use. Townsend Road to Thames Close, Congleton: improving accessibility between town centre and railway station. Victoria Avenue, Crewe: Cycle Safety Fund scheme.
H2 H3 S7 S8	T25	Dane Meadow access improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project to improve access within Dane Meadow public open space in Holmes Chapel. Externally-funded via Natural England's Paths for Communities Fund. Working with Holmes Chapel Partnership, Parish Council and Cheshire East Council Asset Management Service. Portfolio Holder and Committee approval secured to create nearly 1km of new Footpaths and Bridleway, protecting public access for perpetuity. Maintenance agreement entered into with Parish Council to cover future path management. Legal process completed to create new public rights of way. New surfacing, steps, signage and interpretation installed to improve access, including disabled access to the flat area of the site.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping provided to Cheshire East departments, including the Countryside Ranger Service, for grant applications and management plans. Assistance with mapping for third sector groups producing walks leaflets.
H2 H3 S7 S8	T9	The Carrs, Wilmslow, multi-user route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project to improve access within the Carrs public open space in Wilmslow. Externally-funded via Natural England's Paths for Communities Fund. Working with Bollin Valley Partnership, Parks Development, the Friends of the Carrs and Cheshire East Council Asset Management Service.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2013-2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Holder and Committee approval secured to create nearly 900 metres of new Public Bridleway, protecting public access for perpetuity. Legal process completed to create new public right of way. New surfacing installed to improve access along over 1100 metres of Public Rights of Way. New route ties in with Ramblers' volunteer group clearance work on Public Footpath in the Carrs and improved cycle route linking Lacey Green with Pownall Park areas of the town.
H2 H3 S7	Various	Accessibility improvements to public rights of way network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various surface improvement projects, including: Wilmslow Restricted Byway No. 12; Wilmslow Footpath Nos. 43, 111 and 113; Disley Bridleway Nos. 34 and 44A; Disley Footpath No. 28; Aston by Budworth Bridleway No. 1; Aston by Budworth Footpath No. 15; Mobberley Bridleway No. 99 'Hop Path' surface improvements using developer contribution; and, Wybunbury Footpath No. 4
S7 S8	n/a	Local Sustainable Transport Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of active travel infrastructure and promotional schemes focusing on smarter travel within Crewe. Subsequent 'LSTF2' application submitted as part of borough-wide Strategic Economic Partnership Local Growth Fund application. Active travel route improvement suggestions collated under ROWIP included in submission.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Planning applications and Local Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications are commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding, putting forward logged ROWIP aspirations. Developer contributions sought and secured through section 106 agreements and unilateral undertakings. Input from Public Rights of Way and Countryside into new Cheshire East Local Plan strategy and infrastructure plans.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2013-2014
H2 H3 S8	T37	Crewe Footpath Nos. 3 & 36 Cycle Track Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of ROWIP suggestion to upgrade status of a Footpath to cycle track to regularise current usage of route. Route runs from residential areas of Crewe and village beyond towards town centre. Project in partnership with Cheshire East Highways and Local Area Partnership.
H2 H3 S7 S8	Various	Road schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input of ROWIP aspirations. Assessment of legal impacts of proposals on Public Rights of Way network. Comments from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding, on designs for road scheme including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A556 Bowdon Environmental Improvement Scheme; SEMMMS A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road; Congleton Link Road; Poynton Relief Road; and, Crewe Green Link Road.
H2 H3	X15	Discover Cheshire website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.discovercheshire.co.uk. Website promoting walking, cycling and horse riding routes. Also highlights nearby visitor economy facilities in the countryside, such as refreshment stops and accommodation. Partners include Visitor Economy team, Marketing Cheshire, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Mersey Forest. Website being redeveloped to be mobile compatible and combined with other websites to act as the 'one-stop shop' for visitors to Cheshire.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Local Access Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat duties for Cheshire East Local Access Forum, a statutory body of volunteers which advises the Council and other organisations on matters relating to countryside access. Priorities identified as safety on rural lanes, publicity of the Forum's work and accessibility of the countryside.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2013-2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered interest party in Planning Inspectorate's consideration of A556 road scheme and extensive liaison with Highways Agency. Support offered for applications to Natural England's Paths for Communities projects. First annual report published and promoted.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Rights of Way Consultative Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of reports and meetings. Management of register of 193 volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority for volunteers helping with waymarking and vegetation clearance. Implementation of improvements to website suggested by group, including path problem report form, annual strimming list and information on long term path closures. Initiation of project to develop web portal through which volunteers can input network survey data into CAMS GIS mapping database for use by officers initially, and, in the long term, by the public via Interactive Mapping on the Council's website.

2 Progress to date

Table 8 ROWIP project achievements 2014-2015

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2014-2015
H2 H3 H7 H8	T9 T25	Paths for Communities Fund projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Carrs Bridleway in Wilmslow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completion of signage to clarify usage, destinations and distances on routes in the area. river bank stabilisation works completed to help protect new Bridleway from erosion. Dane Meadow new Footpaths and Bridleway in Holmes Chapel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completion of Improvement works on Public Footpath which provides access to the Dane Meadow and Cranage village.
H2 H3 S7	T117	Middlewood Way Station access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility improvements for pedestrian access to Middlewood Station to encourage use of public transport option. Including path surfacing works, lighting and ramp to avoid steps. Project scoping and design undertaken.
H2 H3	X6	Public Health Transformation Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bid submitted for development of local promoted walk in area of Crewe where activity levels are lowest. Bid includes proposals for access improvements and promotion via led walks and training of volunteer walks leaders to maintain local ongoing interest. Partnerships with South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group and GP practices, Local Area Partnership and AgeUK Cheshire, to encourage walkers who will benefit most.
H2 H3 S7 S8	W65 W91 T25 W84	Assistance to Local User Groups / Parish & Town Councils <p>Advice and assistance to local user groups in their planning of access improvements and external funding bids, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goostrey Footpaths Group proposal for dedication of new PROW.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2014-2015
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bollington Initiative Trust proposal for dedication of new PROW. Cranage and Holmes Chapel Parish Councils assessed demand for proposed off-road Bridleway between communities. Canal and River Trust delivered access improvements between PROW over canal bridge and towpath at Church Minshull, in partnership with Parish Council.
H2 H3 S7	T69	Congleton Footpath No. 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congleton Partnership submitted successful bid to Cheshire East Partnerships for funding. Route is Congleton Footpath No. 23, forming continuation of Dane Walkway and Dane Valley Way. Scheme to be delivered by Cheshire East Highways. To improve accessibility as far as practical and to improve aesthetics of route to encourage use.
S7 S8	n/a	Local Sustainable Transport Fund Continued delivery of active travel infrastructure and promotional schemes focusing on smarter travel within Crewe, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destination signposting. Creation of off-road cycle tracks. Cycle parking and toucan crossings. Development of Smarter Travel map in printed and online formats.
H2, H3	X7	More Walks for All Leaflet development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with Cheshire East Local Access Forum. Development of leaflet suggesting 9 easy access walks in the borough to supplement existing popular Walks for All leaflet. Most routes accessible by public transport. Volunteers suggested suitable routes, undertook initial site surveys, took photos and wrote up information for leaflet. Agreement from landowner partners obtained, content drafted and leaflet design and print commissioned.
H2 H3	Various W90	Planning Applications, Pre-Applications and Local Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications and pre-applications commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2014-2015
S7 S8	X10	<p>walking, cycling and horseriding, putting forward ROWIP aspirations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer contributions secured through section 106 agreements and unilateral undertakings. Input from Public Rights of Way and Countryside into emerging Cheshire East Local Plan. Odd Rode Footpath No. 22 section 106: project to improve Footpath access between houses, medical centre and playing field, being scheduled for Easter 2015, in partnership with Scholar Green School and Odd Rode Parish Council. Towpath improvements in Elworth, Sandbach: preparation for delivery of surfacing project to create circular walk and ride options for residents of new housing development, in partnership with Canal and River Trust.
H2 H3 S8	T37	<p>Crewe Footpath Cycle Track Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of ROWIP suggestion from Local Area Partnership and Sustrans. Proposal to convert status of Footpaths Nos. 3 (part) and 36 to cycle track on route used by both pedestrians and cyclists. Route runs from residential areas of Crewe and village beyond towards town centre. Project in partnership with Cheshire East Highways. Legal Order made and advertised: objections received.
H2 H3 S7 S8	X15	<p>Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nantwich Riverside Loop: revision and reprint of promoted walk leaflet. Gritstone Trail: revision and reprint of promoted walk leaflet. Articles submitted for partnership newsletters, including NFU. Newsletters and social media feeds made for all news items.
H2 H3 S7	n/a	<p>Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping provided to Cheshire East departments, including the Countryside Ranger Service for grant applications and management plans.

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2014-2015
S8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping for third sector groups producing walks leaflets. Compliance with INSPIRE EU Directive ensured.
H2 H3 S7	T118	High Legh route to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to project led by Parish Plan team. Creation of a path away from roads, through an area of greenspace. To act as a safer route to encourage walking to village school.
H2 H3 S8	X14	Local Transport Plan Cycling Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions to LTP active travel cycling schemes. Cycling Seminars held to improve communication between Council and local cycling user groups. Cycling Champion appointed. Development of Cycling Strategy initiated. Revision of cycling webpages undertaken.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	Cheshire East Local Access Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat duties for Forum, a voluntary body which advises the Council on matters relating to countryside access. Priority areas of work progressed in safety on rural lanes, publicity of the Forum and accessibility of the countryside. Frequent newspaper publicity secured and national LAF newsletter article published. Rural Road safety meeting held with Parish and Town Councils. Forum negotiated changes to A556 new road scheme designs. Forum responded to numerous consultations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canal and River Trust sharing towpaths; Cheshire East Local Plan; Cheshire East Parks Strategy; Department for Transport Cycling Delivery Plan; and, Natural England Dog Walking Advice.
S7 S8	Various	A556, SEMMMS, Congleton Link Road, Poynton Relief Road and Crewe Green Link Road Schemes

2 Progress to date

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2014-2015
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued input of ROWIP aspirations into options and designs to maximise opportunities for improving routes for active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horse riding. Influencing road scheme designs and Side Road Orders to achieve best possible outcomes for non-motorised users. Extinguishment Order made for section of Footpath affected Crewe Green Link Road (Order not to be confirmed due to change to road scheme).
H2, H3	X15	Discover Cheshire Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.discovercheshire.co.uk. Website promoting walking, cycling and horse riding routes. Also highlights nearby visitor economy facilities in the countryside, such as refreshment stops and accommodation. Partners include Visitor Economy team, Marketing Cheshire, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Mersey Forest. Redeveloped website now mobile compatible and combined with other websites to act as the 'one-stop shop' for visitors to Cheshire. Amends and updates to walking, cycling and horse riding routes made, as arising.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a X16	Rights of Way Consultative Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice yearly meetings between PROW team and user group representatives. Ongoing management of register of volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority for volunteers assisting with waymarking and minor vegetation cutting. Assessment of bridle gate catches undertaken. Links made with Cheshire East Local Access Forum. Updates provided on Deregulation Act legislation changes. Continued development of software for web portal to use in a volunteer network survey to gather path furniture and surface information. Data entered into the CAMS GIS mapping database would then be available for use by officers initially, and, in the long term, by the public via Interactive Mapping on the Council's website.

Progress against Statement of Action

- 2.13** The progress made under the policies and initiatives of the ROWIP have been outlined above. However, a review of progress would not be complete without a direct assessment of progress against the Statement of Action set out in the first Implementation Plan. You'll find that below.
- 2.14** As you will see, some of these projects have not been investigated or delivered fully, and that is due to the delivery of other projects which have required officer and financial resources. As was explained in the first Implementation Plan, other projects may be delivered in place of those listed in the Statement of Action. This is the case, for example, when external funding has been secured by a third party to deliver a project and this results in resources being diverted to deliver that project, rather than one listed in the plan.

2 Progress to date

Table 9 Progress to date 2011-2015 - leisure walking

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
W41	Salt Line Country Park, Alsager	Investigate improving access to the Alsager end of the Salt Line avoiding roads	Alsager Town Council, Alsager Partnership	s106 developer contributions negotiated to improve access
W67	Nantwich Riverside Loop	Install additional signage at Water Lode bridge over the River Weaver to signal the Loop route to non-regular users	Nantwich Riverside Loop partners, Nantwich Local Area Partnership	Additional signage installed and leaflet revised and re-published
W47	Wood Park, Alsager	Improve the link path between the Salt Line and the ATC hut to provide a safe and attractive route for residents to access the facilities	Landowners, Alsager Town Council, Alsager Partnership	Not progressed: third party landownership involved and need for high level of external funding
W35	Odd Rode Footpath No. 41, Church Lawton	Improve access from Footpath and Old Knutsford Road onto the Trent and Mersey Canal towpath, particularly for disabled people	Congleton Disabled Access Group, Landowners, Canal & River Trust	Site assessed: terrain requires steps on Footpath. However possible alternative route identified if external funding can be secured
W45	Dane Valley Way, Congleton	Investigate the feasibility of improving the path between Havannah Street and Havannah Lane	Landowners, Community Group, Congleton Town Council, Environment Agency	Part of route secured through development. Part likely to require major structural works and therefore external funding. Support given for Town Partnership's aim to create riverside path throughout town

Table 10 Progress to date 2011-2015 - leisure cycling

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
C4	Cycle route to Brereton Local Nature Reserve	Set up a promoted route from Holmes Chapel and Congleton to reach Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve by bike, using quieter roads and Public Rights of Way	Highways, Landowners, Visitor Economy, Health Improvement	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities
C2	Congleton Bridleway No. 34	Resolve drainage issues on Bridleway which connects housing in Buglawton with the Macclesfield Canal towpath	Canal & River Trust, Community Group	Improvements delivered. Further improvements sought through planning gain
C3	Poynton Footpath No. 7	Investigate the possibility of enabling cyclists to use this route on Princes Incline as a means to link Poynton and Hazel Grove with the Middlewood Way	Landowners, Poynton Town Council, CycleWilmslow	Landowner approached, but not supportive. Accessibility improvements for pedestrians secured
C1	Mobberley Footpath Nos. 45 & 52	Investigate the possibility of upgrading these Footpaths to Bridleways to extend the network of routes available to cyclists	Landowners, CycleWilmslow	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities
C5	Alsager Road, Hassall	Investigate making Alsager Road safer for cyclists to create a circular ride from Alsager	Highways, Alsager Partnership	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities



2 Progress to date

Table 11 Progress to date 2011-2015 - horse riding

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
H39	Congleton Bridleway No. 31	Create a connection between the Bridleway and the Biddulph Valley Way to improve the network of rides available	Border Bridleways Association, Landowner	Improvement works to path surface scoped, but improvement in access would require land take and so depends on development
H38	St John's Public Open Space, Congleton	Create a Bridleway route to link with Havannah Lane and Tommy's Lane and the wider network	Border Bridleways Association, Landowner	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities
H30	Poynton Footpath No. 51	Investigate the possibility of upgrading to Bridleway status to give access onto the Middlewood Way and surrounding network	Landowners, Horse rider user groups	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities
H20	Seven Sisters Lane, Ollerton	Provide a verge path or field edge path to provide access to Ollerton Bridleway No. 6 for users using Seven Sisters Lane.	Landowners, North Cheshire Riders	Improvement options investigated, but not deliverable due to need for third party land
H23	Specific Footpaths in Ollerton Marthall, Mobberley & Knutsford	Investigate the possibility of upgrading Footpaths to Bridleway status to create a valuable area of off-road riding.	Landowners, North Cheshire Riders	User groups and Council approaches made to landowners, but none forthcoming

Table 12 Progress to date 2011-2015 - cross cutting projects

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
X14	Towns	Develop publicity highlighting available walking and cycling routes within towns to encourage active travel	LTP, user groups, Local Area Partnerships, Town & Parish Councils, Health organisations	Aspiration submitted to all major planning applications, requiring developer to inform new residents of travel and leisure route options
X15	Horse riding promoted routes	Transfer North Cheshire Riders' promoted routes on to Discover Cheshire website	North Cheshire Riders, Landowners	Completed, for those routes on which the public have a right of access
X1	Mersey Life Project	Mersey Life Project Improving access to the river for all	Mersey Life Project, Environment Agency, Bollin Valley Partnership	Minor bank stabilisation works completed to protect public access in the Carrs park in Wilmslow
X6	Local leisure routes	Develop and publish circular promoted routes with Local Area Partnerships	Local Area Partnerships, Visitor Economy	Support and advice given to multiple local groups developing promoted routes
X7	Promoted 'green routes'	Develop and/or reprint 'Green Walks': promoting routes which use public transport outwards and walking or cycling on the return journey	Public transport providers, Local Area Partnerships	Knustford Rail Walks leaflet published and promoted with Mid Cheshire Rail Users' Association. All new promoted route leaflets include public transport information

2 Progress to date

Table 13 Progress to date 2011-2015 - transport related

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
T33	Macclesfield Canal Towpath, Congleton	Improve the surface of the towpath in Congleton, bridges 66-78. The route offers links to the town centre as commuter and leisure route	Congleton Town Council, Community Group, Canal & River Trust	Part of route improved as connection between station and town centre. Planning contributions sought for further improvements
T44	Macclesfield Canal Towpath, Macclesfield	Improve the surface of the towpath in Macclesfield, bridges 30-46 as a potential commuter and recreational route close to the town centre	Canal & River Trust, Local community groups	Not progressed due to other priorities and opportunities
T23	Prestbury Footpath No. 37 and Macclesfield Riverside Park	Upgrade the Footpath and route through the Country Park from Prestbury to Macclesfield as a joint use path for walkers and cyclists	Prestbury Parish Plan, Local community groups, Bollin Valley Partnership, Sustrans, Local Area Partnership	Advice given to local interest group
T45	Macclesfield Canal Towpath, Bollington	Improve the surface of the towpath, bridges 26-28 to create good linkages to town and Discovery Centre	Bollington Town Council, Canal & River Trust, Visitor economy	Improvement works being delivered through local group's adoption of towpath. Further investment sought through development opportunities

2 Progress to date

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
T1	Peak Forest Canal Towpath, Disley	Improve the surface of the towpath to create an active travel route to the facilities in Disley and commuter destinations further afield	Disley Parish Council, Disley Footpaths Society, Canal & River Trust	Support provided to local group and Canal & River Trust for improvement project
T42	Reaseheath College link to Crewe-Nantwich Greenway	Creation of an off-road shared use path between college and Crewe to Nantwich Greenway	Reaseheath College, Sustrans, Highways	Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway completed. Link to college would require major external funding
T25	Cranage to Holmes Chapel link	Creation of an off-road shared use path between Cranage village and playing fields with Holmes Chapel town and facilities	Cranage and Holmes Chapel Parish Councils	Part of route delivered through Dane Meadow Paths for All project delivered by Holmes Chapel Partnership. Business case drawn up for link to Cranage, which would require major external funding
T21	Salt Line to Wheelock Rail Trail link	Creation of a connecting route between the country parks to create a longer leisure and transport route	Landowners	Third party landownership involved. Alternative connection via towpath being explored
T28	Middlewich Branch towpath	Upgrade towpath condition as a link between communities and 3 schools	Canal & River Trust	Project delivered in partnership

2 Progress to date

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Progress
T52	Congleton Bridleway No. 31	Tommy's Lane, Congleton: improve surface, signage and maintenance	Congleton Community Group	Works required scoped and funding being identified. Local community support for project
T29	Middlewich Footpath No. 19	Upgrade for use by cyclists commuting from town to Midpoint 18 employment centre	Landowner, Developer	Proposal secured through planning gain, to be delivered when planning triggers reached
T24	Pickmere Footpath No. 13	Upgrade Footpath between Pickmere and Wincham linking school with community	Pickmere Parish Plan, Cheshire West & Chester Council	Project delivered



3 Prioritising improvements

Prioritisation

- 3.1** Suggestions for new or improved access continue to be collated from the public, user groups and other organisations. These suggestions are recorded in both geographical and database format for ease of interrogation and sharing with other Council departments, submitting through the planning system and sharing with external organisations.
- 3.2** The suggestions have been assessed and scored through a prioritisation methodology which was selected and amended by the Cheshire Local Access Forum. This statutory body, the predecessor to the current Cheshire East Local Access Forum, advises the Council and other organisations on access to the countryside. The scoring reflects the policies of the ROWIP and the benefits offered by the suggestion in terms of need:
- improving access where current provision is poor;
 - improving access in a community where there is a high level of deprivation;
 - improving access for disabled people, horse riders and cyclists;
 - improving safety of non-motorised users on roads;
 - Improving access to services such as shops and schools;
 - Improving access to areas of interest such as water bodies or woodland; and,
 - Improving access which will bring about a benefit to the visitor economy.
- 3.3** The prioritisation methodology also incorporates an assessment of the costs of the scheme in terms of capital and resources, and of the feasibility of delivering the suggestion. In the following tables, the amount of staff time required to deliver the project is indicated by stars: * low, ** medium, *** high. Similarly, the estimated cost of the project is indicated by pound signs: £ low, ££ medium, £££ high.
- 3.4** Those suggestions scoring high in terms of delivering benefits and scoring low in terms of costs have been ranked to be taken forward. The top 5 suggestions in each of the leisure walking, leisure cycling, horse riding, cross-cutting and transport-related categories have been selected.

Statement of Action

- 3.5** The following Statement of Action lists an indicative set of projects that the Council aims to deliver within the 4 year period 2015-2019. What can actually be achieved is dependent to varying degrees on the availability of funding and on landowner agreement. The Council will need to retain flexibility in order to take advantage of opportunities arising, for example, from future development proposals or other partnerships. It follows that the Council may deliver alternative projects to the schemes listed here.

3 Prioritising improvements

- 3.6** It is realised that funding from central government, local authority budgets and other sources are likely to be reduced in the future. Therefore, the importance of partnership working in improving the network and the need to draw in external funds from other sources must not be overlooked.
- 3.7** The delivery of projects will also be subject to the organisational changes that will occur within the Council.
- 3.8** Alongside these ROWIP projects, ongoing maintenance works and smaller scale improvements will continue to be undertaken through the maintenance budget of the Public Rights of Way team. These works are aligned to the policies of the ROWIP as well as satisfying the authority's duty to maintain Public Rights of Way. This duty is undertaken in accordance with the authority's prioritisation system for different categories of maintenance and enforcement issues on Public Rights of Way.

Table 14 Prioritised projects 2015-2019 - leisure walking

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Staff time	Estimated cost	Potential funding sources
W39	Odd Rode Footpath No. 41, Church Lawton	Improve access from footpath and Old Knutsford Road onto the Trent and Mersey Canal towpath	Congleton Disabled Access Group, Canal and River Trust	*	£	ROWIP budget, External funding bid with partners
W41	Salt Line Country Park, Alsager	Investigate improving access to the Alsager end of the Salt Line avoiding roads	Alsager Town Council, Alsager Partnership	**	££	Highways projects, developer contributions
W45	Dane Valley Way, Congleton	Investigate the feasibility of improving the path between Havannah Street and Havannah Lane	Community Groups, Congleton Partnership, Environment Agency	**	££	ROWIP budget, External funding bid with partners, Developer contributions
W47	Wood Park, Alsager	Improve the link path between the Salt Line and the ATC hut to provide a safe and attractive route for residents to access the facilities	Landowners, Alsager Town Council, Alsager Partnership	*	££	ROWIP budget, External funding bid with partners
W68	Bollington Recreation Ground to towpath	Seek public access between towpath and recreation ground	Canal and River Trust, Friends of Bollington Recreation Ground	**	£	ROWIP budget

4 Statement of action

Table 15 Prioritised projects 2015-2019 - leisure cycling

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Staff time	Estimated cost	Potential funding sources
C1	Mobberley Footpath Nos. 45 & 52	Investigate the possibility of upgrading these Footpaths to Bridleways to extend the network of routes available to cyclists	Landowners, CycleWilmslow	**	££	ROWIP budget
C2	Congleton Bridleway No. 34	Improved access from residential area to towpath	Canal and River Trust	*	£	ROWIP budget
C3	Poynton Footpath No. 7	Investigate the possibility of enabling cyclists to use this route on Princes Incline as a means to link Poynton and Hazel Grove with the Middlewood Way	Landowners, Poynton Town Council, CycleWilmslow	**	££	ROWIP budget
C4	Cycle route to Brereton Local Nature Reserve	Set up a promoted route from Holmes Chapel and Congleton to reach Brereton Local Nature Reserve by bike, using quieter roads and Public Rights of Way	Highways, Landowners, Visitor Economy, Health Improvement	*	£	ROWIP budget
C12	A534 Wheelock Rail Trail crossing	Investigate alternatives for safer crossing of National Cycle Network at A road	Highways, South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group	***	£££	Highways projects, External funding

Table 16 Prioritised projects 2015-2019 - horse riding

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Staff time	Estimated cost	Potential sources of funding
H30	Poynton Footpath No. 51	Investigate the possibility of upgrading to Bridleway status to give access onto the Middlewood Way and surrounding network	Landowners, Horse rider user groups	**	£	ROWIP budget
H38	St John's Public Open Space, Congleton	Create a Bridleway route to link with Havannah Lane and Tommy's Lane and the wider network	Border Bridleways Association, Landowner	**	££	Developer contributions
H39	Congleton Bridleway No. 31	Create a connection between the Bridleway and the Biddulph Valley Way to improve the network of rides available	Border Bridleways Association, Landowner	***	££	ROWIP budget, Developer contributions
H45	Hulme Walfield Footpath No.1 / Congleton Footpath No. 25A	Upgrade Footpaths to Bridleway status to increase off-road riding routes	Border Bridleways Association, Landowner	**	£	ROWIP budget, Developer contributions
H47	Giantswood Lane, Congleton	Provide verge or off-road path to increase connectivity of Bridleway	Highways, Landowners	**	£	ROWIP budget, Highways projects

4 Statement of action

Table 17 Prioritised projects 2015-2019 - cross cutting projects

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Staff time	Estimated cost	Potential funding sources
X6	Local leisure routes	Develop and publish circular promoted routes with Local Area Partnerships	Local Area Partnerships, Visitor Economy	**	£	ROWIP budget, External funding bid with partners
X7	Promoted 'green routes'	Develop and/or reprint 'Green Walks': promoting routes which use public transport outwards and walking or cycling on the return journey	Public transport providers, Local Area Partnerships	**	£	Public transport providers
X14	Towns	Develop publicity highlighting available walking and cycling routes within towns to encourage active travel	LTP, user groups, Local Area Partnerships, Town & Parish Councils, Health organisations	**	££	ROWIP budget, External funding bid with partners
X16	Accessibility information	Develop a web portal for the CAMS GIS through which volunteers can enter survey data on the PROW network to capture and share accessibility data	Local user group volunteers, Software suppliers	**	££	ROWIP budget
X16	Accessibility information	Publish a further leaflet of short walks around the borough with full accessibility information	Local Access Forum, National Trust, Canal & River Trust	***	£	ROWIP budget

Table 18 Prioritised projects 2015-2019 - transport-related

Ref.	Site name	Suggested improvement	Partners	Staff time	Estimated cost	Potential funding sources
T23	Prestbury Footpath No. 37 and Macclesfield Riverside Park	Upgrade the Footpath and route through the Country Park from Prestbury to Macclesfield as a joint use path for walkers and cyclists	Prestbury Parish Plan, Local community groups, Bollin Valley Partnership, Sustrans, Local Area Partnership	***	£££	External funding bid with partners
T33	Macclesfield Canal Towpath, Congleton	Improve surface of towpath between bridges 66-78 as link to town centre for commuters and leisure	Congleton Partnership, Canal and River Trust, Developers	***	£££	External funding bid with partners
T44	Macclesfield Canal Towpath, Macclesfield	Improve the surface of the towpath in Macclesfield, bridges 30-46 as a potential commuter and recreational route close to the town centre	Canal and River Trust, Local community groups	***	£££	External funding bid with partners
T101	Salt Line link to Cherry Lane	Improve connections along existing desire line to provide a safer leisure and National Cycle Network route.	South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group, Highways	*	££	External funding bid with partners
T143	Wheelock Rail Trail at Elworth Road	Installation of dropped kerbs at entrance to Trail which is used as route to school and National Cycle Network.	Countryside Ranger Service, Highways	*	£	ROWIP budget

5 Monitoring

Monitoring and assessment

- 5.1** We will continue to monitor the progress of this ROWIP and the subsequent implementation plans through annual reports. These reports are presented to the Public Rights of Way Committee of the Council and published to the website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/prow.
- 5.2** The Cheshire East Local Access Forum monitor the progress of projects being delivered under the ROWIP and also receive the annual reports.
- 5.3** In addition, monitoring may be undertaken through national indicator sets as these are developed and through the results of the National Highways and Transport Network Satisfaction Surveys.
- 5.4** It is intended that the 'ease of use' random surveys will continue to be conducted and used to monitor the maintenance condition of the Public Rights of Way network.
- 5.5** Finally, the CROW Act 2000 set the requirement for ROWIPs to be reviewed at intervals of not less than 10 years. Given that the strategy extends beyond that timeframe, it is recognised that periodic review will be required and that these Implementation Plans will in effect enact that appraisal.



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This information is available in other formats on request