

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 21 September 2012

REPORT OF : POLICY OFFICER
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STATEMENT OF ACTION AND UPDATE OF DELIVERY PLAN FOR CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 1 Members will recall that at the December 2011 meeting Denise Snelson reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council had completed an Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need Household survey, along with consultation with Town/Parish Councils, recreational organisations and the public, on their Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016.
- 2 The Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need report is available at http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning_and_building_control/spatial_planning/emerging_local_plan/background_documents/open_space_audit_and_assessmen.aspx
- 3 The results from these had been used to produce a 'Statement of Action' and 'Improvement Implementation Plan' for the next five years, a draft was tabled at the meeting and it was hoped that the final version of the Improvement Plan would be available in January 2012.
- 4 The Final version of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was presented to the Cheshire Local Access Forum at the June meeting 2012 and the ROWIP update at that meeting included a new format to reflect the 'Statement of Action' and the 'Five Year Delivery Plan' provided in the 2011 – 2016 ROWIP. A copy of the plan can be downloaded from the website.
- 5 At the last meeting it was requested that there be further discussion on the 'Statement of Action' and 'Five Year Delivery Plan'
- 6 The 'Statement of Action' is split into six major themes, reflecting the conclusions of the surveys and consultations mentioned above:-
 - Assets and maintenance (AM)
 - Economic Growth (EG)
 - Better Safety (BS)
 - Quality of Life (QL)
 - Climate change (CC)
 - Equality of opportunity (EO)
- 7 Please find the summary of the 'Statement of Action' on the next page and the update of the five year delivery plan is to be found as part of Agenda item 11.

RECOMMENDED:

That the report be noted.

Statement of Action

Assets and maintenance (AM)	Action over five years 2011- 2016
AM 1	We will aim to increase the percentage annually of routes that are easy for public use.
AM 2	We will develop an overall Greenspace branding style to deliver consistency of image and ease of producing promotional material that is recognisable in various formats.
AM 3	We will work with colleagues to agree standard procedures for access maintenance improvements activities to ensure the natural and historic environment is protected.(Environmental impact assessment)
AM 4	We will develop best practice and priority procedures for maintaining the network
AM 5	We will review our prioritisation system for dealing with Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs)
AM 6	We will assess, develop and deliver anomalies such as cul de sacs, boundary changes and permanent building obstructions, using the prioritisation system used for DMMOs.
AM 7	We will work to improve information available to the public on the Definitive Map and Statement
Economic growth (EG)	
EG 1	We will improve the condition or management of existing routes identified during consultation and network survey as significant for tourism or leisure.
EG 2	We will work with colleagues to integrate information about the access network into other promotional information /website
EG 3	We will develop and distribute a range of promotional materials (not just leaflets) aimed at certain user categories to promote top locations across the borough.
Better safety (BS)	
BS 1	We will seek to address safety concerns highlighted whilst using the network during consultation.
BS 2	We will identify off road routes on the network for improvement that will encourage pupils and students to walk or cycle to school.
BS3	Working with colleagues within the authority we will seek to improve accommodation for vulnerable road users where the Greenspace network links with the adopted highway.
BS4	We will ensure that wherever landowner/environmental constraints allow , the option of least restrictive access is applied whenever new path furniture is installed or existing furniture replaced.

Quality of life (QL)	
QL 1	We will increase the opportunity for people to access green space.
QL 2	We will make it easier for people to incorporate walking, cycling and horse riding into their daily lives and work with health professionals to sustain this change.
QL 3	We will work to encourage voluntary groups and local communities to adopt local routes, helping to maintain and develop them for local community needs.
QL 4	We will identify opportunities for forming new partnerships with other organisations e.g Primary Care Trusts where these would help to deliver improvements to the network or assist in drawing down funding.
QL 5	We will cultivate further involvement and integration with existing and future access plans and initiatives within the authority and beyond.
Climate change (CC)	
CC 1	We will aim to increase the opportunity that people have to leave the car at home and choose sustainable transport.
CC 2	We will seek opportunities to create or upgrade the network where necessary to create continuous and connected routes from where people live to shops, services, work and schools.
CC 3	We will work with internal colleagues to raise the profile of the contribution that the greenspace network has on purposeful journeys.
CC 4	We will reduce the reliance on car journeys to the network by developing countryside access opportunities closer to where people live.
Equality of opportunity (EO)	
EO 1	We will offer the information people need to make informed choices when using the green space and network in a way that matches their needs.
EO 2	We will work with partners and colleagues in the health professions, relevant 3 rd sector providers and others to target different groups, particularly older people, people with mental health challenges and other under represented groups.
EO 3	We will give extra weight to route improvements for health where health problems are reported to be greatest and focus on the formation of circular routes with easy terrain.
EO 4	We will make connections with colleagues in adult services and elsewhere in the authority to develop a consultation process with under represented groups to assess their needs to access the network
EO 5	We will follow the Equalities Act 2010 to comply with standards for enabling all people to use the network, where appropriate and reasonable.