

**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 17 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**  
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## **CHESHIRE EAST DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2026**

- 1 As members will be aware, 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.
- 2 The aim of a ROWIP is to assess:-
  - the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
  - the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area; and,
  - the accessibility of local rights of way to blind and partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.
- 3 The new Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is being developed, in line with the Local Transport Plan 3 into which it is required to be integrated. The ROWIP comprises a 15 year strategy covering 2011-2026 and 3-year implementation plans.
- 4 Based on public consultation and other research, the draft strategy document will be presented to the Rights of Way Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010. This will be to seek recommendation for the Portfolio Holder to approve the document to go out to public consultation during October and November.
- 5 The draft strategy document is presented here as Appendix A. Please note that as the LTP3 draft document is finalised, changes in wording may be made, but the essence of the policies and initiatives will remain.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That**

- (1) Forum Members consider the report for discussion and comment; and,**
- (2) That Members encourage their wider networks to comment on the Draft ROWIP during the public consultation period.**