

Report to: Executive Member Environmental
Services

Date: 26th February 2008

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Report No: EMES/154/08

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Report Title: Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012

Non Confidential: This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Recommendations: The Executive Member is recommended to approve the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012.

Decision:

**Background
Doc(s):** Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012.

Signed: _____
Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date: _____

Summary:

The attached Right of Way Improvement Plan sets out the way in which the Council will implement a series of policies to improve the Rights of Way network until 2012.

Background

1. The Council (along with other Highway Authorities) has a duty under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
2. The attached document is Bolton Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan which outlines the way in which the Council will manage its network of Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byways to meet the current and projected future needs of the public. In producing the document and planning for future needs, specific regard has been paid to the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted, or have mobility problems.
3. Following a widespread consultation, the Council produced a Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Draft Plan has since gone out to consultation and the comments received in relation to it have been assessed and where suitable incorporated into the final plan.

The key themes of the improvement plan

4. The two consultation processes have highlighted numerous issues that are important to members of the public and landowners. Many of the issues identified were felt to be common to others. This has enabled six key themes to be identified, which are as follows;
 - Create a safe joined up network of off road routes
 - Improve accessibility to the network
 - Encourage greater use leading to better health and enjoyment
 - Improve accessibility to services and destinations
 - Improve publicity, public awareness and signage
 - Improve communications with landowners

Implementing the plan

5. The plan sets out the actions to be undertaken over the course of the next five financial years which will help to support the key themes listed above.
6. The final plan, upon approval, will be inserted into the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan (LTP). It is envisaged that the majority of funding will come through a bidding process to the LTP, but where possible, other sources of internal and external funding will be investigated.
7. The estimated costs for implementing each of the proposals within the plan are contained in the tables at the back of the plan.

Recommendations

8. Executive Member is recommended to approve the appended Rights of Way Improvement Plan, to cover the period 2007-2012. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the submission of the final plan for insertion into the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan.