

Rights of Way Improvement Plan Action Plan Review

Report of Transport Strategy Manager

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To inform the Local Access Forum of the progress made in the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) statement of action and to request comments from them on a proposed draft revised statement of action to be used up until the formal review is complete in 2028.

2. Background

2.1. The initial RoWIP was adopted in 2018. In the intervening 5 years there have been a range of changes in the Council affecting the way in which the RoWIP has been implemented as well as changes in the way Local Government operates which has implications for the way in which the RoWIP could be implemented in the future. These need to be acknowledged through amendments in the action plan to enable progress to be tracked before the formal review in 2027. This plan therefore should be read in conjunction with the original RoWIP. It should also be remembered that the RoWIP is a Council-wide document and although led by PROW (Public Rights of Way) they are not the sole delivery body.

3. Progress on the Original Statement of Action

3.1. The local highway authority, as required, produced a statement of action for the RoWIP. This action plan comprised proposals the Council was to take for the management of rights of way and how an improved network of rights of way was to be secured with regard to matters dealt with in the assessment.

3.2. The statement of action table in Appendix 1 sets out the activities that were to be addressed around the 7 conclusions identified within the RoWIP and the progress made towards their delivery.

3.3. Funding levels in the statement of action against each action are only indicative and do not guarantee funding availability.

3.4. The key to Costs were as follows:

L < £10,000

M = £10,000- £100,000

H >£100,000

4. Overview of the findings of the review

- 4.1 Though progress has been made in some areas of the plan, this has been limited. The main reasons for this are resource related both in terms of staff and finances. Significant inflationary pressures in addition to the COVID 19 pandemic in this period have also had a negative impact on progress. Delays to the Local Plan have also affected some outcomes for RoWIP.
- 4.2 Against this backdrop, the Council has been successful in delivering structural changes to how Rights of Way are managed, notably with by including PRow in the overall asset management plan, digital asset mapping and approving the Access Control Policy. PRow management has been integrated within Council plans.
- 4.3 The Council has made good progress in developing digital assets relating to PRow which includes mapping routes and access controls. The work of the GIS team in the past 5 years has significantly helped our PRow team to carry out their role, these digital resources being valuable assets available for other teams to use now and in the future.
- 4.4 The creation of new routes, or improvement of routes, has been supported by specific funding bids. The Council has been successful with many funding bids for active travel programmes and has also included active travel upgrades as part major road projects. This has delivered some significant path upgrades. Section 106 funding has also been secured to deliver upgrades to paths. The Council continues to work closely with Transport for Greater Manchester to maximise access to funding. The Council remains committed to accessing funding for route improvement and development when it becomes available.
- 4.5 The Council works to make best use of the available resources for the promotion of routes and use of routes by the public. Third-sector organisations help greatly with this through organising and promoting walks. The Council supports this by helping to manage the walking programme, providing liability insurance for walks and promoting a programme of walking activities on our website.
- 4.6 Many actions remain on-going to ensure appropriate maintenance of the network. However, completing works already published in our 3-5 year plans relating to PRow management has proved difficult due to fluctuations in budgets that result in the Council being unable to commit to longer-term spending. Despite the difficulties in forecasting, officers have worked to ensure that the Council is in the best position to apply for funding as it becomes available and it is able to priorities the most necessary works for funding in the annual capital programme ensuring limited resources are allocated and used effectively.

5. Changes coming out of the review

- 5.1 It is proposed to amend the Statement of Action. This is designed to allow for elements of the action plan to be recast to allow for the following:

- Delays in the local plan process;
- Changes in the process used for annual monitoring of rights of way and other elements of sustainable transport;
- Limitations in the ability to forward-plan due to funding uncertainty;.
- Limitations in meeting key dates in the original plan due to resource constraints.

5.2 It should be noted that these changes will still enable the key activities within the original action plan to be undertaken.

5.3 Once comments have been received from the Local Access Forum, consideration will be given to any proposed changes which will be included in an updated document as appropriate and the updated action plan submitted for approval to the relevant Cabinet Member.

6. Next Steps

6.1. The amended statement of action will be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member for approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Emily Brough on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4592 or alternatively email emily.brough@stockport.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Action Plan with current position and proposed future actions.

Conclusion 1: Updating the network – The Path network is valued and has a multitude of uses and users. However, there is a need to update the network to reflect current needs and use. When doing this, the rights of way network cannot be considered in isolation. Use, management and improvements to rights of way are interlinked with many other existing and proposed plans and strategies. The Council also needs to work with local communities to enable them to support and utilise their off-road network.

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
1.1 Monitoring User Needs	L	Ongoing	PROW Highways and Transportation Services	Annual Transport Monitoring Report to include information about Rights of Way including satisfaction.	The Council does not produce an Annual Transport Monitoring report but it does track satisfaction using the National Highways and Transport Questionnaire. Recent NHT data shows Stockport is the top borough in GM for satisfaction with PRow. Despite this satisfaction with aspects of PRow the report also showed a large decline in satisfaction relating to overgrown footpaths and bridleways and small declines in satisfaction in other aspects.	The annual Walking and Cycling Update Report which identifies a range of related actions and future plans will include relevant Rights of Way issues. The Council will continue to use the National Highway and Transportation (NHT) Survey to monitor satisfaction and act to address issues identified, subject to sufficient resources

<p>1.2 Off-Road network to be included in overall asset management planning as part of network.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>PROW Highways and Transportation Services</p>	<p>Off-road routes included in Network Hierarchy for delivery of recommendations of “Well Managed Highways Code of Practice”.</p>	<p>PRoW are included in the Transport Asset Management Strategy Framework that details planned and reactive maintenance policies. The Council manages the Public Rights of Way map (including on-line) and the emerging Neighbourhood Transport Plan mapping will include the PROW network to clarify how it interconnects with current and future transport opportunities</p>	<p>The Highway Asset Management Plan is to be reviewed and we will make sure that the offroad network is considered in this process. The current Highway and PROW inspection policies are also being reviewed as part of their periodic update to ensure they are fit for purpose. Key Date to be 01.04.2025</p>
<p>1.3 Route status clarified where necessary.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, ICT, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation Services</p>	<p>Route status work such as claims, amendments and clarification work to be carried out as required.</p>	<p>Route status work such as claims, amendments and clarification work has been carried out as required.</p> <p>While a significant backlog is still present, Officers have been working with their legal colleagues to prioritise and focus efforts to address necessary changes, while recognising the resource limitations impacting on progress. In the last 4 years the Council have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rerouted 13 PRoW where errors had occurred Diverted 4 Added 3 to the map Removed 1 Upgraded 1 (footpath to bridleway) 	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

<p>1.4 Asset management processes to be developed to consider all users. Amendments to overall strategy to be implemented when necessary.</p>	L	Ongoing	<p>PROW Highways and Transportation Services Network Asset Maintenance</p>	<p>Asset Management Plan implemented to reflect the recommendations of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Asset Management Plan includes the recommendations of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p> <p>All PRow are now part of future planned and reactive maintenance.</p> <p>The Council has approved its Access Control Policy. The RoWIP now focuses on issues such as gapwidth and gates rather than stiles.</p> <p>GAIST carried out an audit of PRow in 2019, from which the Council has produced a GIS layer to map and guide future works.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
<p>1.5 Work with Planning Policy to ensure that the Local Plan reflects the needs of the current network.</p>	L	Winter 2019	<p>Planning Policy, PROW, Greenspace, Traffic Services and Highway and Transportation</p>	<p>Transport Policies in the Local Plan reflect the needs of the modern Rights of Way user.</p>	<p>Local Plan still in development</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same. Key Date to be 2026.</p>
<p>1.6 Ensure that Greater Manchester Policy supports the development of the network for all users.</p>	L	Ongoing	<p>Highways and Transportation</p>	<p>Comment on all relevant aspects to ensure that it reflects the needs of the Stockport ROWIP</p>	<p>Our PRow Officer has attended meetings of the GM PRow Officers, contributed to a GM RoWIP and provided advice when discussing cross-boundary matters.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

1.7 Link in the needs of the ROWIP with the Local Plan	L	Winter 2019	Planning Policy, PROW, Greenspace, Traffic Services and Highway and Transportation	Policies in Local Plan reflect and support the ROWIP.	Local Plan still in development	Outcome to remain the same. Key Date to be 2026.
1.8 Link in the Rights of Way routes with Asset Management planning.	L	Ongoing	Greenspace, PROW, Traffic Services, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage.	Asset management for the Council includes the rights of way in the borough and reflects the needs of the ROWIP	The asset management plan includes PROW in the borough, providing a framework for planned and reactive maintenance.	Outcome to remain the same.
1.9 Link in the Rights of Way routes with the delivery of Well Managed Highways Code of Practice.	L	Oct-18	Greenspace, PROW, Traffic Services, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage.	Policies in reviewed Strategies, Policies and Plans to deliver the Well Managed Highways Code of Practice reflect the needs of the ROWIP.	The DfT's Well Managed Highways Infrastructure: Code of Practice has informed our Transport Asset Management Strategy, notably providing the basis for our PROW Inspection and Repair Plan (Public Right of Way Inspection and Repair Plan 2018.)	Outcome to remain the same.

<p>1.10 Include Rights of Way needs in reporting and monitoring systems for the Council's wider highway network.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Greenspace, PROW, Traffic Services, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage ICT.</p>	<p>Rights of Way needs are included in future planning and procurement decisions of ICT software and processes. This will assist in the development of a robust set of asset management processes.</p>	<p>QGIS, which has replaced Map info, has had all public rights of way information transferred across by officers.</p> <p>Work done by GIS for the past 5yrs has significantly helped the PROW Officer to carry out parts of their role.</p> <p>Officers continue to work with ICT to exploit new softwares and processes as they become available.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
<p>1.11 Ensure that all improvements are consulted on in line with the Consultation guidance for Transportation and Highways and the wider Council Consultation Strategy.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, Traffic Services, Highways and Transportation</p>	<p>Consultation with relevant users will enable schemes to better reflect all needs.</p>	<p>In addition to borough-wide public consultations, the Council also consults with relevant users via the following forums and groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking & Cycling Forum Local Access Forum Disability Transport Access Forum Community Rail Groups <p>The recent Access Control Policy (ACP) is an example of such consultation.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

Conclusion 2: Improved information can increase use of the path network. Improved information can increase use of the path network. Information on wider access to greenspaces and on other access routes needs to be widely available. Improvement to signage can also encourage wider use of the network

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
2.1 Include off-road routes in plans for signage asset management.	L	Ongoing, online reporting to start by 2018.	PROW, Greenspace, Network Asset Maintenance, Traffic Services.	Signage for off-road routes is included in asset management systems for Council signage.	Signs that need replacing are identified as a part of route inspection. Where maintenance is identified, these signs are added to a prioritised list. All signage repair is carried out as part of the revenue budget.	Outcome to remain the same.
				Online reporting of problems, overall signage strategy development and new scheme development.	The delivery of an online reporting mechanism has been delayed in terms of the PROW network.	Outcome to remain the same. Key date to move to 2028.
2.2 Provide advice to public wanting to promote routes or undertake led walks or rides.	L	Ongoing	PROW, Greenspace, and Traffic Services	Respond to requests in accordance with Council guidance on communication and signpost to	Council supports the Walkaday & Wellbeing Walks programme by posting information about walks on the Council website. In addition, the Council provides insurance and requires risk	Outcome to remain the same.

				other advice where relevant.	assessments for all walks, thus enabling Walkaday to continue.	
2.3 Promote named walks or rides (both local and national) on Council websites.	L	Ongoing; initial review by May 2018	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Culture and Leisure	Review routes displayed on Council's website annually for amendments and updates. Routes for walkers, cyclists and equestrians would all be included.	<p>Walks and trails section of Council website lists 11 local walk or riding trails, with maps and details.</p> <p>A full catalogue of walking trails has been provided to GM Walking who list them on their website.</p>	Outcome to remain the same.
2.4 Provide guidance on walking and riding to Council destinations and advice to other facilities in the borough to provide similar information	L	Ongoing initial review by May 2018	Highways and Transportation, Culture and Leisure,	Update Council website as needed and respond to requests from outside the Council as relevant.	<p>Due to technology advances, people have changed how they navigate to destinations, resulting in the Council no longer providing travel information for its venues.</p> <p>However it is recognised that further work is needed to promote sustainable routes to Council offices and venues</p>	Outcome to remain the same.

<p>2.5 Ensure changes are incorporated in to new versions of the TfGM Cycle Map.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Traffic Services, PROW and TfGM</p>	<p>Updates on the network passed to TfGM for inclusion in updated maps.</p>	<p>We have continued to work with TfGM providing updates to their maps and we have continued to take part in TfGM's meetings about developing how they map the network.</p> <p>TfGM are currently reviewing their mapping and plan to change the format they use. This has caused delays to mapping updates which we continue to discuss with TfGM.</p> <p>A series of updates and corrections to maps have been provided to TfGM, reflecting the new infrastructure built with Mayoral Challenge Fund and Active Travel Fund funding.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
<p>2.6 Continue to support Walkaday programme and Health Walks Programme</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, and Public Health Services</p>	<p>Maintain and increase numbers of participants utilising the walking programmes</p>	<p>Health walks has become Wellbeing and uses the Ramblers administration system and training to deliver and ensure programme.</p> <p>The Council plays a key role in administering both Wellbeing Walks and Walkaday, keeping records for insurance and risk-assessment purposes.</p> <p>Council staff have attended training so they can deliver free Walk leader training to residents. Several sessions have now been</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

					delivered to residents. Resources to support these programmes continues although levels remain constrained due to financial and staff-resource limitations.	
2.7 Maintain PROW mapping on Council website to reflect definitive map data.	L	Ongoing	PROW, ICT	Online Map to be updated as change occurs to provide information to the public in an accessible format.	The PRoW map is available on the Council website. The PRoW Officer continues to update this and inform local forums of such updates.	Outcome to remain the same.
2.8 Promote the responsibilities and rights of different users.	L	Ongoing	PROW, Greenspace, and Traffic Services,	Publications by the Council should, where relevant, reference and promote the rights and responsibilities of users.	Communications team has sent out reminders on social media regarding the Countryside Code. Emphasising responsible countryside use such as not throwing away glass/cigarette ends or e-cigarettes. Communications team are working up a draft comms plan for 2024.	Outcome to remain the same.
2.9 Manage and maintain the PROW Forum and the Cycle User Group.	L	Ongoing	PROW, Transport Strategy	At least 4 meetings per year per group.	The PRoW Forum is maintained by the Transport Strategy Manager, providing access for residents to the decision-making process. The Walking and Cycling Forum has been developed to provide a	Outcome to remain the same.

					<p>wider range of speakers and better updates on funding bids. This replaces the Cycle User Group.</p> <p>Actions for the Council across meetings are tracked and followed up.</p>	
2.10 Manage and Maintain Local Access Forum	L	Ongoing	Democratic Services, PROW, Transportation and Highway,	Maintain and facilitate Local Access Forum meetings in accordance with the terms of reference.	The LAF is maintained by democratic services with support from the PROW Officer as part of our statutory duty.	Outcome to remain the same.

<p>2.11 Ensure that information provided to the public through the Council reflects the desire to promote routes for sustainable modes.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing initial review by May 2018</p>	<p>PROW, Greenspace, Traffic Services, and Growth Team.</p>	<p>Review information on Council website annually to ensure it reflects the needs to promote available routes.</p>	<p>There has been a complete step change in the Council's ethos regarding the climate change emergency.</p> <p>The Council has established Climate Action Now, this is supported by the provision and promotion of sustainable travel options.</p> <p>The Council heavily promotes all new elements of walking and cycling facilities.</p> <p>Examples include our activation events to make residents aware of our new routes and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
				<p>Ensure that information publicised by the Council reflects the desire to promote the use of the rights of way network.</p>	<p>Stockport Council is fully engaged with all GM campaigns to promote sustainable modes.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

<p>2.12 Ensure that PROW and other Right of Way signage is considered in the delivery of the Stockport Signage Strategy.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Planning and Development Management</p>	<p>Signage for Rights of way considered along with other borough signage to form a robust network.</p>	<p>The Stockport Signage Strategy has never been formally adopted by the Council. However, PRoW signage was included in the PRoW improvement plan and we continue to aspire to sign all PRoW from the highway. The Council also seeks to work with TfGM with regards to the appropriate signage of new schemes in line with the relevant design guidance.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
<p>2.13 Ensure that Signage asset data is included in the Council's asset management database and maintained.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Oct-18</p>	<p>PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance</p>	<p>Delivered as part of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice timescales and Stockport Asset Management Plan.</p>	<p>GAIST audit captured signage data; data has been uploaded to CONFIRM (asset management software), information is also shared internally on GIS systems This allows our Officers to keep accurate records of signage in disrepair, assisting with long term maintenance plan. However, it is recognised that the outstanding signage programme exceeds revenue funding available in any give financial year and so intervention is prioritised</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>

<p>2.14 Develop and maintain a 3 to 5 year programme for signage maintenance and Improvement.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Apr-18</p>	<p>PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance</p>	<p>Programme published on Council website as part of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice timescales and Stockport Asset Management Plan.</p>	<p>A PRoW prioritisation matrix has been written to enable officers to categorise and prioritise problems and complaints received.</p> <p>This will also ensure limited resources are allocated and used effectively. However, due to the fluctuations in annual budget, the publication of a 3 to 5 year plan has been unachievable at this time.</p>	<p>Maintain a 3 to 5 year plan to advise the annual Capital Programme and the annual plan for revenue maintenance in line with the Stockport asset Management Plan. Capital Programme to be available on the Council website annually</p>
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Conclusion 3 – The record of public rights of way and other access routes needs to be kept up to date.

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
3.1 Consolidate the definitive map	L	2027	PROW	Produce a new consolidation of the definitive map	<p>PRoW is currently doing preliminary work.</p> <p>This includes physical inspections of PRoW</p> <p>Undertaking legal research to check if correct orders have been made.</p> <p>Identifying anomalies and rectifying them.</p> <p>So far 19 anomalies have been amended.</p>	Outcome to remain the same.
3.2 Review the recording and management process for modification orders.	L	Apr-20	ICT, PROW	Develop a recording and management process for modification orders which takes best advantage of the Council's current and emerging asset management processes utilising relevant computer packages.	<p>Work is ongoing with progress made regarding the section 53 register.</p> <p>PRoW page now has section for the section 53 register.</p> <p>This is separate from the register of definitive map modification orders.</p>	Outcome to remain the same. New key date 2027

3.3 Review the recording and management process of permissive paths.	L	Apr-20	ICT, PROW	Develop a recording and management process for permissive paths which takes best advantage of the Council's current and developing asset management processes utilising relevant computer packages.	The recording and management of these paths remains an ambition, however, currently the Council has no records from the public regarding permissive paths.	Outcome to remain the same. New key date 2027
3.4 Identify PROW assets in joint Stockport asset management records. (Includes – stiles, bridges, signs, lighting, benches, gates, barriers, surfacing details)	M	2019 October	PROW, Network Asset Maintenance, Traffic Services, Structures, ICT	All Assets recorded in relevant shared asset records of Council. (Confirm, QGIS and PARIS)	A survey was done to identify and map all of these assets. We are reviewing and updating the survey for accuracy. This is being done in both QGIS and Confirm.	Outcome to remain the same. New key date to be 'ongoing'
3.5 Investigate with ICT if online forms can be used to make PROW claims process more user friendly.	L	Apr-20	ICT, PROW	Identify and act on opportunities to make the process more efficient while still meeting legal requirements of the process.	Work is ongoing to agree with ICT a way forward to provide online forms.	Outcome to remain the same. New key date to be 2027.

3.6 Identify routes as necessary before 2026 closure of Definitive Map to pre 1949 additions.	M	2026 (subject to government review)	PROW	Identify routes which need to be claimed for definitive map on Council Land.	Cut off date has been changed to 2031. Rambler's UK have produced an online map- Don't Lose Your Way PRow Officer has been in contact with Ramblers to ask for this information in a GIS layer to assist their work.	Outcome to remain the same. Key date 2031.
				Promote the ability to make claims on routes by the public	Information is available to the public via the Council website on how to make a claim . The issue has been discussed in public meetings when appropriate	Outcome to remain the same. Key date 2031.

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Conclusion 4: Missing links – There is need for additional off-road routes to address the needs of a range specific user types. Carefully considered path improvements can improve the overall utility of the network for a range of users. The users benefiting from improved linkages will be identified on a case-by-case basis.

Action	Cost Estimates	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
4.1 Improvement of current off-road routes to make them more usable by a range of users.	M/H	Ongoing from 2019	PROW, Greenspace and Traffic Services	Develop 3 to 5 year programme for route improvements utilising asset management and lifecycle planning techniques.	<p>A range of improvements has been made to the network through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Access Plan (TCAP) Mayoral Challenge Fund (MCF) Active Travel Fund (ATF) Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Towns Fund <p>Work continues to identify future schemes.</p> <p>Improvement refers to changes of use and construction of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Maintenance is detailed in Conclusion 2</p>	Outcome to remain the same.

4.2 Identification of new or improved crossings including bridges and underpasses.	M/H	Ongoing from 2019	PROW, Greenspace, Structures and Traffic Services	Develop 3 to 5 year programme for route improvements utilising asset management and lifecycle planning techniques.	<p>A range of improvements has been made to the network through the TCAP, MCF and ATF, CCAG, LSTF, Towns Fund.</p> <p>Work continues to identify future schemes.</p> <p>Improvement refers to changes of use and construction of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Maintenance is detailed in Conclusion 2</p>	Outcome to remain the same.
4.3 Identification of new routes or route improvements for all users as part of new developments.	L	Ongoing	Planning, PROW, Greenspace, Traffic Services, Highways and Transportation	All new developments to be considered in terms of improvements to rights of way network as part of planning requirements.	<p>Several developments in the borough have seen PRoW upgraded or re-instated.</p> <p>Lancashire Hill development (Wiggets) TPT improvements.</p> <p>Woodford Garden Village (Redrow) PRoW re-instated on site of old aerodrome</p> <p>Eden Park (Bloor Homes) PRoW preserved and new PRoW dedicated by developers following a claim.</p>	Outcome to remain the same.

		Winter 2019	Development Control, PROW	Ensure necessary policies are included in the Local Plan to enable improvements to be delivered.	Local Plan still in development.	Outcome to remain the same. Key date to move to 2026
4.4 Improve paths in line with the hierarchy in action 6.2	M/H	Ongoing	PROW, Greenspaces, Traffic Services, Network Asset Maintenance.	Improvements reflect the needs of the network and work in tandem with asset management and lifecycle planning.	Improvements reflect the needs of the network and work in synergy with asset management and lifecycle planning. Funding from TCAP, MCF and ATF have provided path improvements for: Clapgate, Nelstrop Rd, Happy Valley, Blackbrook Bridge.	Outcome to remain the same.
4.5 Improve paths via planning gain in line with the hierarchy in action 6.2	M/H	Ongoing	Planning, PROW, Greenspace, Traffic Services, Network Asset Maintenance	Planning gain delivers appropriate path improvement in terms of asset management and lifecycle planning.	Approach has been reviewed in line with GM Bee Network proposals, which are now the focus of path improvement prioritisation. However, all opportunities to improve accessibility through rights of way provision are considered as part of planning applications.	Outcome to remain the same.

Conclusion 5: Access for all – People with all types of access needs have limited access to the path network both physically and in terms of information and this must be addressed. Paths should be available to all and their usage should be encouraged to all parts of the community. Where good access can be provided it should be and, where it can't, as much as possible should be done to avoid restricting or limiting access unnecessarily.

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
5.1 Work with relevant members of the community to improve the usability of PROW information for users with specific needs.	L	Nov-19	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Disability Groups	Develop design guides for use by staff and developers to improve the information available to users both in terms of signage and mapping.	<p>Progress on design guide for signage and mapping has been limited. TCAP provided funding to develop walking maps in Woodbank/ Vernon Park. The project consulted local groups including the charity KIDS supporting disabled children.</p> <p>Outcomes of the projects workshops included designing and mapping accessible/ sensory routes.</p> <p>These routes were around Vernon park and Woodbank Park taking in the new bridge over the River Goyt and upgraded PROWs in the area.</p>	Outcome to remain the same. Key Date to be amended to 2026

5.2 Work with the relevant members of the community to identify access issues and priorities/ improvement for disabled users utilising a range of modes.	L	Ongoing from 2019	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Disability Groups	Develop 3 to 5 year programme for route improvements utilising asset management and lifecycle planning techniques.	<p>Access Control Policy was consulted on with relevant groups and forums. Work is ongoing to build a detailed prioritised list of issues to address.</p> <p>PRoW Officer continues to prioritise maintenance and improvements including giving consideration to access issues. Small works are tasked to TLC with larger projects identified for future funding, for example Capital Programme funding or inclusion in funding bids.</p> <p>Larger projects include Footbridges, bridges, steps, access controls, surfacing.</p> <p>The lack of a clear funding amount per year for rights of way schemes remains a barrier for developing a specific 3-5 year plan; assets are improved/repared as funding sources allow. However the aspiration remains.</p>	Outcome to remain the same. Key Date to be amended to 2026
5.3 Update policy of least restrictive access to reflect latest guidance and technology.	L	Nov-19	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation	Reviewed Policy Published.	Access Control Policy passed by Cabinet 06/12/2022	N/A

<p>5.4 Support the provision of guided walks and rides to encourage the use of rights of way.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Culture and Leisure, and Public Health Service</p>	<p>Support and advice provide on request.</p>	<p>Council walks offering is supported by Senior Transportation Officer.</p> <p>Scheme activation events feature lead walks and lead rides.</p> <p>Council has supported Life Leisure with promotion of their confidence walks programme.</p> <p>Funding opportunities from TfGM are forwarded to relevant groups and support with applications provided by the Council.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
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<p>5.5 Provided information about different routes in the borough to encourage their usage in a range of media.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PROW, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Culture and Leisure, Public Health Services</p>	<p>All Council venues to advertise their accessibility by Sustainable Modes</p>	<p>Route videos have been produced as part of "TfGM it's your move campaign" along with maps and trip time information.</p> <p>New routes and improved routes have been promoted on social media.</p> <p>Leisure route information is available on the Council website.</p> <p>Activation events have been delivered to promote new routes.</p> <p>Technology, for example Google Maps, now means we don't provide as much travel information to Council buildings on the Council Website. However where we do, we no longer have driving as the principal mode shown.</p> <p>Council has embraced and invested in hybrid options for residents to attend meetings.</p>	<p>Outcome to remain the same.</p>
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Conclusion 6: Network maintenance – Maintenance is a concern to all path users especially surface quality and drainage.

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
6.1 Ensure that the Councils Asset Management Plan and related policies includes the needs of off-road routes including PROW.	L	Oct-18	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage	Review of documents for Asset Management in relation to adoption of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice timescales. Update documents as necessary.	PRoW reflected in Highways Asset Management Plan. This plan is to be reviewed. Surface inspection policy includes PRoW. This policy is currently being reviewed.	Outcome to remain the same. Key date to be made 2025
6.2 Develop hierarchy for Public Rights of Way, Cycle Routes and other Council owned rights of way infrastructure as part of implementation of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice to guide inspection and a risk based	L	Oct-18	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage	Hierarchy adopted as part of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice timescales.	Hierarchy was developed as part of the asset management programme, including surface inspection.	N/A

approach to maintenance.						
6.3 Develop a 3 to 5 year programme of works to maintain the Public Rights of Way network and other Council owned rights of way such as concessionary paths in parks.	L	Apr-19	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, Structures including Drainage	Programmes published on Council website.	<p>PRoW and greenspace routes are included in the annual capital programme. However, due to funding uncertainties and the management of the routes being spread across departments, a detailed 3-5 year programme is difficult to establish.</p> <p>The works necessary to maintain public rights of way are collated and prioritised on an ongoing basis, enabling the development of works programmes once the funding envelope is establish.</p>	Programmes to be maintained to guide annual programme production as published as the Transport Capital Programme annually. Key date to be set as ongoing.
6.4 Promote process for task days and friends of groups on Rights of Way.	L	May-18	PROW, Greenspace, and ICT	The promotion of forms and training to enable the development of 'friends of' groups and task days on the rights of way network.	<p>Work has been undertaken to understand the legal and practical implications of work by volunteers on land not in Council ownership.</p> <p>Through Peak And Northern Footpath Society, some work has been undertaken on Council land utilising the services of TCV (The Conservation Volunteers).</p> <p>Officers will continue to keep this issue under review.</p>	Work to establish through trials a viable volunteer system for Rights of Way. Key date to be ongoing;
6.5 Develop inspection and maintenance programmes for Rights of Way in line with asset management	L	Oct-18	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance, and Structures	Programmes adopted as part of Well-Managed Highways Code of Practice timescales.	The inspection policy for PRoW has been adopted and a revised version is currently under development.	N/A

and a risk-based approach.			including Drainage			
6.6 Investigate with ICT online reporting for maintenance issues including obstruction being expanded to include Rights of Way.	L	2020	PROW, Traffic Services, Greenspace, Highways and Transportation, Network Asset Maintenance and Structures including Drainage	Identify and act on opportunities to make the process more in keeping with other Council reporting while still meeting legal requirements of the process.	<p>Obstructions and maintenance issues on PROW can be reported using the online contact form.</p> <p>There has been a step forward in terms of requesting temporary closures of PROW by an online form</p> <p>The Council continues to aspire to a more detailed online reporting system; however ICT's resources are currently focused on other elements of the Council's website which align with the Council's strategic goals around services for residents.</p>	Outcome to remain the same. Key date to be made 2026

Conclusion 7: Inconsiderate Users - Problems of inconsiderate user behaviour need to be addressed as this deters people from using paths and impacts on their enjoyment.

Action	Cost Estimate	Key Date	Stakeholders	Outcome	Summary of Progress	Proposed review of Outcome
7.1 Improve litter and dog waste management including collection points and enforcement options.	L	Apr-19	Greenspace, PROW, Public Realm, Community Safety	Review current process and publish findings in relation to rights of way.	<p>A recent mapping exercise has been undertaken to map the locations of waste bins across the borough (litter and dog waste disposal and collections are now combined) available on QGIS</p> <p>To aid collection, bins are located at entrances to sites, areas with good access and parking for vehicles</p> <p>The current SLA does not allow for additional bins to be added to the contract; we can however increase the capacity of bins where there is an obvious demand</p> <p>There are 2 waste collection services undertaken by TLC, Parks hygiene mapped rounds across parks and greenspace sites and Streetcare undertake the collection of bins located on/near the adopted highway</p> <p>FPN can/have been issued for failing to pick up/remove dog waste, there is one dog warden who would need to be in the right place at the right time to witness and issue</p>	N/A

7.2 Work with relevant agencies to address antisocial behaviour.	L	Apr-19	Police, Community Safety Officers, PROW, Greenspace, and Traffic Services	Review current process and publish findings in relation to rights of way.	Neighbourhoods work in partnership with colleagues across the Council, SHG, FOG and GMP to address specific issues/hot spots. As resources are limited it is important to maintain good records of issues, identify focal points and times of issues so resources can be targeted appropriately. We pull together multi-agency teams to look at how we can collectively tackle issues	Monitor current process and report findings as needed to LAF. Key date to be ongoing.
		Ongoing		Monitor issues and feed back to the Local Access Forum with regards to progress.	Sustained complaints about ASB in specific locations have not been received; as a result, we have not had the need to feedback any further.	Outcome to remain the same.
7.3 Advertise and promote the rights and responsibilities of different users on the boroughs rights of way.	L	Ongoing	Police, Community Safety Officers, PROW, Greenspace, and Traffic Services	Review where and how current promotion and education as to the rights and responsibilities of different users is undertaken and seek to expand this area of work.	We have promoted the Countryside Code and explained rights and responsibilities to users as appropriate in meetings, emails and online. The Council communicated what activity was permitted during pandemic/lockdowns.	Outcome to be remain the same.