



Report for: INFORMATION
Item Number:TBC

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: “MILESTONES STATEMENT 2012/13”
Responsible Officer(s)	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer Stephen Brown, Head of Highways and Engineering
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer 01628-796180
For Consideration By	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Date to be Considered	12 th March 2012
Affected Wards	All

Report Summary

This report seeks the Panel’s approval for the “Milestones Statement 2012/13”, attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the Council’s objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year (see page 4 of this Agenda)

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council’s Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for the coming year. This will assist in the effective management of the borough’s public rights of way network for the benefit of residents and visitors to the borough.	2012/13

Details of Recommendations: That the Panel approve the “Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2012/2013”

Financial Details: resources available for public rights of way work in 2012/13 are set out on page 7 of this Agenda

Legal implications: none.

Value For Money: setting clear targets for the Council's Public Rights of Way Service ensures that good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

Sustainability Impact Appraisal: effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.

Risk Management: the Milestones Statement approach is an efficient and effective way of planning, prioritising and monitoring public rights of way work. Without an approved set of objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for the coming year there is a risk that the quality of service delivery would decline.

Links to Strategic Objectives: effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling.

Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion: the Milestones Statement includes a number of initiatives aimed at improving access to the countryside for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.

Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications: none.

Property and Assets: none.

Consultation: a consultation on the draft Milestones Targets, priorities and service standards was carried out in December 2011/January 2012. A list of consultees is included on page 17 of this Agenda.

The Local Access Forum endorsed the targets, priorities and service standards at its meeting held on 13th December 2011.

Cookham Parish Council has submitted the following comments:

(i) "To amend bullet point three of the Priorities concerning the Thames Path National Trail to: 'Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public, and make it a riverside route throughout the borough.'

Officer comment:

The Panel could choose to add the additional wording (underlined above,) as suggested by the Parish Council.

However, Panel members should be mindful that there are very significant constraints to the achievement of a continuous riverside route. Ever since the Thames Path was created as a National Trail in 1989 there have been some sections of the Trail where there is no legal public right of access along the river frontage, and therefore in these locations the Trail detours away from the river.

In this borough, there are four sections of the National Trail where the footpath does not directly follow the riverbank: a short section to the north of Bridge Gardens at Ray Mead Road in Maidenhead, a short section to the west of Windsor Bridge at Eton near to the Brocas, and two much longer detours away from the river at Cookham, where the Trail takes a lengthy detour through Cookham village and along Mill Lane, and at Home Park in Windsor where the

Trail detours around the private part of the Park and passes through Datchet along Windsor Road.

(ii) "To add two milestone targets:

'To redefine the route of the Thames Path National Trail at Bridge Gardens, Ray Mead Road (A4094) so that it is alongside the River Thames.

To redefine the route of the Thames Path National Trail at the Odney Club, Cookham so that this section of the National Trail, which currently deviates from the river across a road, continues the experience of a riverside path.' "

Officer comment:

The "Milestones Targets" do not refer to site specific schemes, but both of the projects listed above are already included in the Milestones Statement site-specific proposals list (Appendix 7 projects 2.21 and 2.11.)

Timetable for Implementation: 2012/13

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft "Milestones Statement 2012/13" (attached and published on borough website.)

Background Information: none.

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr John Stretton	Panel Chairman			
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Vice-Chairman		Chairman Briefing 28 th Feb	
Stephen Brown	Head of Highways & Engineering	13/02/12	24/02/12	
David Oram	Strategic Director of Environment & Deputy Chief Executive	13/02/12	24/02/12	
Decision type: decision		Urgency item NO		
Report no.	Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:	
	Anthony Hurst	Principal Rights of Way Officer	01628-796180	