

Report for:
Decision



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Title	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2026
Responsible Officer(s)	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer Ben Smith, Head of Highways and Transport
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	7 th December 2015
Implementation Date if Not Called In	January 1 st 2016-2026
Affected Wards	All

Report Summary This report seeks the Panel's approval to publish the "*Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*", attached at Appendix 1. All local highway authorities have a statutory duty to publish and review their Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans every ten years. The Royal Borough's current Plan runs from 2005-2015 and the replacement Plan will cover the period 2016-2026. The Plan sets out the Council's strategy for managing and improving the public rights of way network and other accessible routes in the Royal Borough over the next ten years. Following a statutory consultation on the Draft Plan during August/October a number of comments have been received as set out in Appendix 2, and consequently some amendments have made to the Plan.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?	
Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
Adoption of the 10-year Plan will assist in the effective management and improvement of the borough's public rights of way network for the benefit of residents and visitors to the borough.	2016

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Panel approve the publication of the "*Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*", as set out in Appendix 1.

2. Financial Details: Adoption of the Plan would not commit the Council to incur any expenditure: funding arrangements for the implementation of any projects listed in the Plan would be subject to funding bids and any other necessary approvals on a case by case basis as/when required.

3. Legal Implications: Under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 local highway authorities are required to prepare and publish Rights of Way Improvement Plans, and to review these Plans every ten years. Under Section 61 of the Act local highway authorities are required to consult with Parish Council's, Local Access Forums and adjoining highway authorities before preparing or reviewing their Plans. Notices advertising the draft or amended Plan must be published in two or more local newspapers circulating in the area, giving details of how the Plan can be obtained or inspected and how representations can be made. The highway authority is then required to consider any representations made in accordance with the Notice.

4. Value for Money: Setting clear targets for the Council's Public Rights of Way team and other stakeholders will ensure that good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

5. 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.

6. Risk Management: Adoption of a Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan is an efficient and effective way of planning, prioritising and monitoring public rights of way work. Without such a Plan there is a risk that the quality of service delivery would decline. Additionally, as highway authorities have a statutory duty to produce such Plans, there is a risk of reputational damage if the Council fails to do so.

7. Links to Strategic Objectives:

Residents First

- ☐ Improve the environment, economy and transport
- ☐ Encourage healthy people and lifestyles

Delivering Together

- ☐ Deliver effective services

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

9. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications: N/A

10. Property and Assets: N/A

11. Consultation: During the period January to May 2015 a number of meetings and discussions about the Plan were held between the Council's Rights of Way team and members of the Local Access Forum, and a preliminary Consultation Draft Plan was circulated in May to all Parish Council's, neighbouring Highway Authorities and Natural England, as required by the legislation. Copies of the Consultation Draft Plan were also sent to Maidenhead Civic Society, the National Farmers Union, the Royal East Berks Agricultural Association, and the Royal Forest Agricultural Association. Following this preliminary

consultation, a Draft Plan was submitted to and approved by the Panel in July 2015. The Draft Plan was published in August 2015, and the statutory 10-week consultation period ended on 15th October 2015.

Comments received during the public consultation are set out in Appendix 2, together with a number of recommendations from the Local Access Forum which considered the Draft Plan at its meeting on 12th November 2015.

12. Timetable for Implementation: It is proposed that the “*Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*” will come into effect on 1st January 2016.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1: “*Draft Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*”

Appendix 2: schedule of consultation responses, and recommendations from the Local Access Forum.

The maps can be accessed via the attached link: <https://db.tt/4jGLVMzz>

Background Information: none

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chairman		24/11/15 briefing	
Cllr Clive Bullock	Panel Vice-chairman		24/11/15 briefing	
Ben Smith	Head of Highways & Transport	17/11/15		
Mark Lampard	Finance Partner	17/11/15		

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key decision	No

Full name of report author(s)	Job title	Full contact no:
Anthony Hurst	Principal Officer – Rights of Way	01628 796180

Schedule for writing and reviewing report

Stages in the life of the report (not all will apply)	Date to complete
1. Officer writes report	17/11/15
2. To Chairman’s briefing	24/11/15
3. To Panel	07/12/15