

**CABINET – 28 OCTOBER 2025****RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (RoWIP) 2025-2035****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) 2025-2035, and to seek approval of the RoWIP and the associated Action Plan (Appendices A and B respectively).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - a) Notes the outcome of the 12-week public consultation exercise on the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) 2025-2035, including the comments of the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - b) Approves the RoWIP 2025-2035, and its Action Plan.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Government's statutory RoWIP guidance recommends that authorities undertake a 12-week public consultation on a draft RoWIP to allow for representations to be made.
4. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires relevant authorities to assess and review a RoWIP every 10 years. Approval of the RoWIP will also enable completion of the action 'S12', set out in the County Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy (CaWS) Action Plan, to prepare a revised RoWIP by 2026.
5. To ensure the Action Plan remains current, effective, informative and deliverable over the 10-year period of the RoWIP.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. A public consultation on the draft RoWIP document was undertaken for a period of 12 weeks between 22 May and 14 August 2025.
7. A report on the draft RoWIP was considered by the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 June 2025 and the Committee's comments are set out in paragraphs 51 to 53 of this report.
8. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the Council's updated RoWIP will be published on the Council's website.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

9. From 21 November 2002, relevant authorities in England were required by legislation to prepare and publish a RoWIP, with first Plans to be completed by 2007. This advice was subsequently amended by a requirement to fit elements of the RoWIP into the Second Local Transport Plan (LTP) process.
10. On 22 March 2006, the LTP2 was approved by the County Council. Details of the draft RoWIP were appended to the report and were considered by the County Council at that time.
11. Following consideration by the Cabinet on 5 September 2006, the RoWIP was approved by the County Council on 20 September 2006.
12. The 2006 RoWIP was updated in 2011 as an Action Plan to support the LTP3. The LTP3 provided a long-term strategy for transport within the County, including the public rights of way network. The LTP3 was approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 8 March 2011 for submission to the County Council. The LTP3 was subsequently approved by County Council on 23 March 2011.
13. On 20 July 2021, the CaWS and its Action Plan were approved by the Cabinet. The CaWS Action Plan contains a short-term action 'S12' to prepare a revised RoWIP by 2026.
14. On 22 November 2024, the LTP4 Core Document was approved by the Cabinet, and then approved by the County Council on 2 July 2025. The LTP4 is a key document in the development of the Council's transport programmes, providing the overarching strategic direction in support of sustainable travel and transport, including active travel and the public rights of way network.
15. In May 2022, the County Council approved its Strategic Plan (2022–2026), which was subsequently updated in 2024. The RoWIP helps to deliver positive actions towards all the Strategic Plan's five strategic outcomes:
 - a) 'Safe and Well' - active travel is proven to improve health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally. The public rights of way network facilitates easy access to cycling, walking, wheeling and riding routes for regular journeys.

- b) 'Clean and Green' - the public rights of way network provides sustainable access to nature and green space for all.
 - c) 'Great Communities' - the public rights of way network helps connect all Leicestershire communities, encouraging community cohesion in a sustainable way.
 - d) 'Improved Opportunities' - the public rights of way network helps to connect communities to wider services in a healthy, environmentally friendly way, helping children and young people get the best start in life.
 - e) 'Strong Economy, Transport and Infrastructure' - the public rights of way network in Leicestershire spans over 1915 miles (3084 kilometres) of routes, providing accessible travel options for all.
16. On 19 February 2025, the County Council approved the 2025/26 to 2028/29 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Spending towards maintaining and improving public rights of way are contained within the MTFS.
 17. On 18 March 2025, the Cabinet considered a report on the development of an updated RoWIP 2025-2035 and approved the undertaking of a public consultation on the draft RoWIP document for a period of 12 weeks between May and August 2025.
 18. On 15 July 2025, the Cabinet considered a report regarding highways and transport funding which included an indicative budget for rights of way improvements.

Resource Implications

19. The updated RoWIP and its actions are intended to be delivered through the existing agreed capital and revenue budgets set out in the MTFS, in addition to any further grants or external funding, such as that secured through the planning arena. The current revenue budget is £258,000 for 2025/26.
20. The allocated capital maintenance budget for the public rights of way for 2025/26 is £360,000 (£15,000 base amount with a one-off funding of £345,000 from the Local Transport Grant) levelling out to £17,000 until 2028/29.
21. To support delivery of the RoWIP actions, recognising the increasing cost pressures in managing and maintaining the public rights of way network, it is intended that additional capital funding will be included in the Highways and Transportation Capital and Works Programmes using some of the Local Transport Grant funding. This will be subject to the Cabinet's approval in spring 2026.
22. A report - Additional Highways and Transport Funding Awards 2025/2026 - was taken to the Cabinet in July 2025. This report set out the Local Transport Grant Programme of works and a Reserve Programme which includes an indicative budget envelope in cost band B, of between £201,000 to £1m for public right of way improvements across the County. An agreed programme of works for this financial year is largely completed with expenditure broadly aligned to budget – it is expected that any in-year underspends will be reprofiled to contribute to

funding future programmes. Further programmes for the next three years are being revised and elements of that work are set out in the Action Plan accompanying the RoWIP. The Action Plan will be reviewed each year to update scheme delivery.

23. The overall approach to maintaining the public rights of way network and the delivery of actions within the RoWIP will be through a risk-based assessment, aligned to the above core budgets available, which is being developed in parallel with the RoWIP.
24. In addition, the Council will continue to seek to improve and link paths with new developments. There are already a number of Section 106 (developer) contributions confirmed for such improvements, which will be programmed in for delivery over the coming years as the trigger points for the release of those funds are reached.
25. The RoWIP is being developed within the framework of the current and future funding available. It is accepted that this will be subject to variations and the Action Plan can be updated to reflect future changes. All opportunities will continue to be explored and maximised towards securing external funding towards the sustainable management and improvement of the public rights of way network. This includes seeking to secure funding through the planning arena, Government grants, partnerships, local parish and district authorities where possible and appropriate.
26. The Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

27. This report will be circulated to all Members.

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PART B

Background

28. The LTP4 Core Document, approved by the County Council on 2 July 2025, is a key document in the development of the Council's transport programmes, providing the overarching strategic direction in support of sustainable travel and transport, alongside the CaWS, for active travel and the public rights of way network.
29. The RoWIP is a 10-year plan which explains how improvements made to the public rights of way network in Leicestershire, alongside effective management and maintenance, will provide a better experience for all users when walking, wheeling, cycling, and horse riding. It also aims to help connect Leicestershire communities with each other and through nature and green spaces.
30. The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (approved by the Cabinet in 2017) sets out the Council's operational procedures in undertaking a risk-based approach to asset management, aligning with Government guidance 'Well-managed highway infrastructure a code of practice 2016'. The Code is designed to promote the adoption of an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure based on the establishment of local levels of service through risk-based assessment.
31. Aligned operational procedures and service levels for maintaining the public rights of way network are now being developed to support the RoWIP. Together the RoWIP and risk-based operational procedures will set out the Council's overall approach to maintaining the public rights of way network.
32. The Government's statutory guidance sets out that RoWIPs are required to consider at least the following:
 - a) The extent to which rights of way meet the needs of the public;
 - b) The opportunities for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation;
 - c) A statement of the action the Authority proposes to take for the management of local rights of way.
33. In the context of rights of way, the Council has a statutory role as:
 - a) Local Highway Authority to maintain and sign routes on the ground and to keep them open for people to use.
 - b) Local surveying authority to map all of the paths on the Definitive Map (of public rights of way) and let people know where they are.
 - c) Access authority to look after open access sites and rights.
34. The Council, working with other authorities and agencies, including the voluntary sector, aims to:

- a) Develop and manage a public rights of way network that meets the current and future needs of the local community.
- b) Provide a good quality and value for money rights of way service.
- c) Enable as many people as possible to walk, wheel, cycle, and ride, with particular focus on those currently excluded, including those with mobility constraints.
- d) Contribute towards improving the health of residents of Leicestershire and reduce their carbon footprint.
- e) Promote Leicestershire as an attractive place to walk, wheel, cycle and ride for all, including those living in or visiting the County.
- f) Monitor and report at regular intervals on how these goals are being achieved.

35. An up-to-date RoWIP is a key part of delivering towards these aims. The RoWIP aligns with:

- a) Current Government legislation and statutory guidance;
- b) Latest Council policies and strategies, including the LTP4 Core Document and the CaWS;
- c) The Council's risk-based approach to asset management.

Consultation and Engagement

36. Consultation and engagement were embedded in the approach to developing and updating the RoWIP. Engagement has taken place throughout the development of the draft RoWIP to help shape its content before formal consultation was undertaken on the draft document.

37. The statutory guidance stipulates a range of stakeholders that must be engaged with when preparing an updated RoWIP; for Leicestershire that included:

- a) Highway Authorities whose areas adjoin Leicestershire;
- b) District and parish councils;
- c) Natural England;
- d) Local Access Forums.

38. The Council hosts the Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF). This is a statutory group that advises the Council and other bodies on the improvement of public access for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. The LLAF includes member representation and has played a key part in helping shape the RoWIP and supporting engagement with the Council's biggest stakeholder, the public.

39. There were two planned periods of engagement and consultation as part of updating the RoWIP, pre-consultation engagement during development, and then formal consultation on the draft RoWIP, thus ensuring all stakeholders had the opportunity to help shape the RoWIP and review the draft.

Pre-Consultation Engagement

40. In line with the Government's statutory guidance, several pre-consultation engagement activities were held, involving various stakeholders, over a four-week period during February and March 2025.
41. The pre-consultation engagement included:
 - a) Direct elected member engagement - County Councillors, district council members and parish councils were asked for their views and about any priorities for improvements to the public rights of way network in their areas. They were also invited to participate in the online survey and map-based feedback exercise.
 - b) Direct engagement with statutory and other key stakeholders - these included neighbouring highway authorities, Natural England, and advocacy groups. These were contacted directly to comment on their priorities for improvements to the public rights of way network in Leicestershire and were also invited to participate in the online survey and map-based feedback exercise.
 - c) Online public survey - an online survey was held between 19 February to 16 March 2025 to collect responses covering a range of subjects in relation to the Leicestershire rights of way network. Questions included how often the network is used, what barriers stop people from using the network, and what would encourage people to use the public rights of way network more often. Over 1200 responses were received.
 - d) Online map-based feedback - a map-based online engagement tool (Social PinPoint) was used during February and March 2025 which allowed people to leave comments on specific areas of the public rights of way network via placing pins on a virtual map of Leicestershire. The participants were able to highlight their favourite routes, which they use most often, and what improvements they would like to see and where.
 - e) Hosting a special forum with focus group workshops - members of the LLAf joined the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Forum for a special meeting inviting all interested parties along to take part in discussion, learn about the development of the RoWIP and how they could help shape it. This gave an opportunity to get more detailed feedback in a face-to-face environment.
42. All these engagement activities were advertised through social media and via the County Council website and the Choose How You Move website. Posts received 711 clicks and 82 shares across the different platforms. Summary analysis of the pre-engagement survey outcomes showed:
 - a) There were 1245 survey returns:
 - i. 89% of which were Leicestershire residents;

- ii. 39% of respondents identified as male, 60% identified as female, and 1% used another term;
 - iii. 15% had a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity;
 - iv. 97% selected White as their ethnic group;
 - v. 98% had access to at least one car or van available for use by their household.
- b) How respondents said they use the Leicestershire's public rights of way network, and how often:
 - i. 94% walk on the network, with 81% walking at least about once a week;
 - ii. 46% cycle on the network, with 14% cycling at least about once a week;
 - iii. 19% horse ride on the network, with 14% riding at least about once a week.
- c) How respondents said they use the network:
 - i. 85% said they use the network for health, fitness and wellbeing purposes;
 - ii. 71% of respondents start journeys from home;
 - iii. 6% said they use the network to travel to work.
- d) Respondents most common barriers to using the public rights of way network in Leicestershire (respondents could select multiple options):
 - i. 51% of respondents said maintenance/cleanliness issues prevented them from using the network;
 - ii. 29% physical access to route (i.e. cannot get to route due to an obstacle);
 - iii. 27% said that lack of signage was an issue.
- e) What respondents said would encourage their use of the public rights of way:
 - i. 93% would like to see paths/cycleways/bridleways better maintained;
 - ii. 88% would like to see better quality paths/cycleways/bridleways;
 - iii. 84% said better signage would encourage them great deal;
 - iv. 79% would like to see more online information on where to walk/cycle/ride;
 - v. 70% would like to see more printed information on where to walk/cycle/ride on the network;
 - vi. 66% would like to see improved accessibility, including more routes with gates instead of stiles.
- f) Sources where respondents access public rights of way information, maps and/or walking routes (respondents could select multiple options):
 - i. 80% use mapping apps (e.g. OS Maps, Strava, Google maps);
 - ii. 38% use the Council website;
 - iii. 6% use libraries (printed and digital material).
- g) Getting in touch to report an issue - 50% of respondents confirmed they know how to report an issue on the network.

- h) Responses also highlighted that:
 - i. 95% agreed that developers should be encouraged to provide more riding and walking opportunities;
 - ii. 88% would like to see a 'Greenways' network of high-quality rights of way routes introduced linking villages and towns;
 - iii. 69% agreed most heavily used public rights of way should be prioritised for maintenance.

Formal Consultation on the Draft RoWIP

- 43. Following consideration of the pre-consultation engagement responses, a draft RoWIP was developed. Public consultation on the draft RoWIP then took place over a 12-week period between 22 May and 14 August 2025.
- 44. During this period, the draft RoWIP was shared online, with an accompanying online survey. Participants were asked to consider whether they felt the Plan would help achieve the goals of ensuring the public rights of way network meets the present and future needs of users, provides opportunities for all users to access nature, open-air recreation and exercise, and does so in an efficient cost-effective and sustainable way.
- 45. Details regarding the consultation responses are appended to this report (Appendix C) and a summary is given below.
- 46. In summary, analysis of the survey, which had 254 returns, showed:
 - a) 81% of respondents were Leicestershire residents;
 - b) 10% were County, district or parish/town councillors;
 - c) The gender split of the respondents was 53% male, 45% female;
 - d) 97% of the respondents identified as White, 2% Other ethnic group, and 1% Asian or Asian British;
 - e) 28% of the respondents have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity;
 - f) The respondents' main modes of transport on the public rights of way network were walking at 76%, cycling at 8%, horse riding at 6% and 4% motor vehicles.
- 47. Summary feedback regarding the RoWIP and its Action Plan showed:
 - a) 68% of the respondents agreed with the RoWIP overall, with only 8% disagreeing.
 - b) When asked to what extent people agreed with actions in the Plan, the responses were positive:
 - i. Actions listed under 'Highway Authority': 60% agreed, 27% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 6% disagreed;
 - ii. Actions listed under 'Surveying Authority': 60% agreed, 28% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4% disagreed;
 - iii. Actions listed under 'Planning and Development': 54% agreed, 28% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 9% disagreed;

- iv. Actions listed under 'Access Authority': 57% agreed, 28% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 8% disagreed.
48. The survey offered respondents the opportunity to provide any other comments on the draft RoWIP. Many responses were detailed and demonstrated the passion people have for local public rights of way; all were considered when developing the RoWIP.
49. The main summary themes of these responses were:
- I. Maintenance comments about specific paths or locations - these were passed to the Public Rights of Way Team to investigate and action accordingly.
 - II. Desire for more accessible paths by use of more gates over use of stiles and better connectivity between settlements - the Action Plan has been updated to include more detail on actions that improve accessibility, such as the plan to implement a Greenways programme to identify and improve priority routes between settlements, which includes reducing stiles and replacing with gates or gaps in physical barriers to better connect communities.
 - III. Desire to include more detail of specific scheme items included in the Action Plan - this has been done, for example, actions detail improvements utilising developer funding including: PD9.1 surfacing footpath number J17 in Syston, PD9.4 improving bridleway number U67 in Burgage, and PD9.10 surfacing improvements to footpaths numbered O89, O91 and bridleway number 092 in Ashby de la Zouch.
 - IV. That the consultation documents were overly complex - this will be taken into account in preparation of any future consultation and engagement material.
 - V. Respondents emphasised the importance of adequate resources and funding - the intention is that investment in the public rights of way will be proportionately increased using Local Transport Grant funding. Further detail of current funding plans are set out in the resources section of this report at paragraphs 19-25.
 - VI. Respondents urged better collaboration between councils, landowners, volunteers, and developers, and stressed the need for developers to maintain connectivity and avoid blocking existing routes. The Action Plan includes measures to:
 - i. Facilitate better collaboration with landowners and farmers;
 - ii. Ensure the Council maximises opportunities to influence land development toward positive outcomes for public rights of way;
 - iii. Increase the number of volunteers recruited.
 - VII. Respondents expressed concerns about the maintenance of public rights of way across Leicestershire - the RoWIP stresses the importance of

maintenance, by maximising available funding through use of the Council's risk-based approach to asset management, alongside actions included in the Action Plan aimed at maintaining and improving the quality of paths. These include actions HA2: undertaking 'Inspection of all sealed surface paths, i.e. asphalt.', HA9: to 'survey and inspect Bridge assets and identify replacement structures.', and HA10.1 to HA10.12 which will provide tarmac surfaced paths in many locations including Melton, Shepshed, Wigston, Blaby.

- VIII. Respondents expressed concerns about road safety, especially for vulnerable users and conflicts between other users and motorists where route connectivity means paths meet and interact with roads - the Action Plan includes a programme of small-scale schemes to improve access and suggestions received through the consultation and ongoing engagement will inform these.

50. The draft RoWIP and Action Plan were updated in consideration of the consultation outputs. Changes included:
- a) A summary of the consultation being added.
 - b) More information on the network of volunteers that help manage and maintain the public rights of way network and emphasising how people can get involved.
 - c) More detail on actions to improve accessibility, which include reducing stiles and replacing with gates or gaps in physical barriers to better connect communities.
 - d) More detail of specific scheme items being included in the Action Plan.

Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments

51. On 5 June 2025, the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport, on the development of the draft RoWIP 2025-2035. The report sought the Committee's views on the draft Plan and the actions identified as part of the public engagement process to manage and improve the public rights of way network.
52. Arising from the discussion, the following points were made:
- a) It was highlighted that, of those that said they used the public rights of way network, over 85% said this was for health and fitness purposes. Members suggested that the Authority should be encouraging local residents to make use of this resource.
 - The Action Plan includes several actions to promote, encourage and support people to access public rights of way, including action EE1 which will 'Promote the PRow [Public Rights of Way] network and its use via Choose How You Move', and EE8 which will 'Provide information and education provision to schools in Leicestershire on PRow and the Countryside Code'.

- b) It was noted that the Local Transport Fund had been allocated for one year and would deliver some of the maintenance work required on the network. Although a very small budget, this was considered a local priority and a shared asset. It was recognised that local people were keen on supporting this based on the noticeable improvement work already carried out so far.
- The Action Plan includes several actions to help maintain the public rights of way network by maximising funding available.
- c) Members supported the idea of community activities being held to support the delivery of improvement plans. It was suggested that there were communities within rural areas that would and could support these initiatives. However, it was also noted that this was a complex situation, the Council having legal duties and only a small budget which would not support the entire network.
- The RoWIP sets out how people in local communities can get involved in helping to improve public rights of way. The Action Plan includes several actions to promote and support volunteering to support rights of way, including HA18 which will 'Promote volunteering to recruit and appoint volunteers, supporting them in helping to manage and survey the network. Includes promoting and running Volunteer days'. And HA20 which is to 'Host and support the volunteers of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF), including holding three meetings annually'. And SA3 that will recruit and support new research volunteers to research existing historic Definitive Map Modification Order claims and associated evidence, and SA10 which will recruit, appoint and support volunteers helping to carry out historic research on orders.
- d) It was noted that, as with cutting grass verges, the Authority would always provide the core service to keep public rights of way accessible. However, there were communities that had the capacity to maintain these over and above what the Council was able to provide. The Director emphasised that there were practical constraints on what the Council could enable and encourage the public to do.
- e) A Member suggested that maintenance of the public rights of way network could be delivered by those sentenced to community service orders and that this might be a better use of their time. It was suggested that this option could be explored but that this would come with associated costs.
- This has since been undertaken and working with the service it was agreed this would not be operationally practical but opportunities for community work are being explored.
- f) Members acknowledged the importance of maintaining historic footpaths across the County but raised concerns about the increase in byways open to all traffic which were being abused and left impassable. It was suggested that this was due to the behaviours of some and although there were sensitive issues and strong feelings by different parties, the overall

impact on the Local Highway Authority responsible for maintaining the byways was becoming problematic.

- The Local Highway Authority through a risk-based approach to asset management and maintenance will assess these issues.
- g) Members shared their frustrations with signage being left behind upon the completion of road work carried out in the highway, noting that this often ended up in hedgerows and waterways. It was noted that the Council shared in this concern and the Director highlighted the difficulties faced by the Council in addressing this. It was noted that companies carrying out works on the highway now used multiple contractors, each carrying out specific works and who were responsible for putting up and taking down all signage. The Authority could seek to encourage the behaviour of companies to act on this more quickly and the Director asked that any signage left behind after completed works be reported to the Department.
- The Local Highway Authority takes opportunities through its New Roads and Street Works Act responsibilities to encourage good behaviour from relevant parties in relation to this matter.
- h) A Member raised a concern about overgrown vegetation on a footpath alongside Gartree prison.
- This has since been cut back as part of scheduled maintenance work.
53. The Committee noted that report and that its comments would be considered as part of the consultation process, and would be presented to the Cabinet.

Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and its Actions

54. The RoWIP covers a 10-year period, with its Action Plan being a living plan, responsive to change. The Action Plan will be monitored, reviewed and updated annually every financial year in response to the changing priorities, funding available and continued engagement with the partners, organisations, and volunteers the Council works with who help deliver the Plan. This annual review and update will include engagement with the LLAF, including presenting an annual progress report, to ensure that progress and any updates can be collectively and collaboratively discussed to inform any changes and future actions.
55. This approach will help ensure the actions in the Plan continue to deliver outcomes that support the successful management and improvement of the public rights of way network for all of the people that use it throughout the duration of RoWIP.

Conclusion

56. The updated RoWIP has been developed through engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, and in line with current Council policies, strategies and Government guidance to create a compliant, achievable, and affordable Plan.

57. The updated RoWIP and its delivery will help achieve the goals of maintaining and improving the public rights of way network that meets the present and future needs of users, providing opportunities for all users to access nature, open-air recreation and exercise, and does so in an efficient, cost effective and sustainable way.
58. This RoWIP, if approved, will enable the Council to continue building on the successes of the significant work that has been undertaken to date to manage and maintain the public rights of way network in Leicestershire, providing continued accessible and sustainable travel options for everyone over the next ten years from 2025 to 2035.
59. The updated RoWIP and Action Plan is appended to this report (Appendices A and B).

Equality Implications

60. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping was assessed by the Environment and Transport Departmental Equalities Group, and Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group, and has been updated following the completion of the engagement and consultation activities set out in this report. The EIA indicates a neutral impact and is appended to this report (Appendix D).

Human Rights Implications

61. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other Implications and Impact Assessments

62. The Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) has been updated following the completion of the engagement and consultation activities set out in this report. The HIA is appended to this report (Appendix E).
63. The RoWIP will facilitate the continued successful management and improvement of the public rights of way network through Leicestershire countryside, facilitating and encouraging access to nature and green spaces for all. Therefore, the RoWIP is considered to help deliver positive benefits to residents and visitors to Leicestershire, in support of the goals set out in the Environment Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Background Papers

Report to County Council on 20 September 2006 - 2006 Rights of Way Improvement Plan

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=1502&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 20 July 2021 - Cycling and Walking Strategy and Action Plan (CaWS)

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6445&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 22 November 2024 - Fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) Core Document

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7511&Ver=4>

Report to County Council on 18 May 2022 - Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026)

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=6482&Ver=4>

Report to the County Council on 19 February 2025 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=7391&Ver=4>

Government guidance - Local authority rights of way improvement plans

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-rights-of-way-improvement-plans>

Report to the Cabinet on 18 March 2025 - The Development Of An Updated Rights Of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) 2025-2035

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7874&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 18 March 2025 –Environment And Transport 2025/26 Highways and Transportation Capital Programme And Works Programme

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7874&Ver=4>

Report to Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 05 June 2025 - Draft Rights Of Way Improvement Plan 2025-2035

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1293&MId=7842&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 15 July 2025 - Additional Highways and Transport Funding Awards 2025/26

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7878&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A - Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2025 -2035)

Appendix B - Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2025 -2035) – Action Plan

Appendix C - Draft RoWIP Consultation Outcome (May-August 2025)

Appendix D - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix E - Health Impact Assessment

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