

Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) Tool to Support Leicestershire County Council Decision Making

Appendix E

Proposal Name: Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)

Department: Environment & Transport

Name of contact: Lee Quincey

How to use this tool

This is your tool to enable you to carry out a 'desktop' HIA. It will help you look at the potential impacts of your proposal on the health and wellbeing on our communities in Leicestershire, and consider the impact on health inequality.

Below are some tips on how to fill out the columns:

- **Impact** – To complete this section, have a think about what impact your proposal may have on each themes listed in the rows below, and importantly, if this impact will be positive or negative. Tick the '+' column for positive impacts and '-' for negative impacts.
- **Likelihood** – What is the likelihood of each impact? Try to support these decisions using available evidence. Tick the '?' column if you are uncertain an impact will occur and '!' if you are certain / have evidence an impact will occur.
- **Description of Impact** – How will the proposal impact on the population? If it will impact specific group or populations differently, identify this- you could add in multiple rows to show this. How severe is the impact likely to be? Will it be instant or in the future?
- **Recommendation** – This is the space to write recommendations around how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include further research and links to information you have found.

Further guidance completing this form can be found in the HIA Support and Guidance notes.

What impact if any will the proposal have with regard to the themes listed below?

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
Social Cohesion and Community Does the proposal encourage social interactions in the community, help to install a sense of neighbourliness and local pride in the area? Does the proposal encourage community participation and increase social inclusion?	+		?		The purpose of the RoWIP is to increase accessibility to public rights of way (PRoWs) throughout Leicestershire and to promote their use as a viable alternative to private vehicles. The PRoWs provide a free amenity for leisure and necessary trips. As improvements are made and publicised, there is opportunity to encourage specific communities or service user groups to use them collectively, such as through arranging group walks. Improvements made through the Plan can also improve connectivity between communities. TIMESCALE: the Plan covers a period of 10 years from approval.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers that serve people: ○ in different age groups, including the elderly, children and family groups, to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs, such as through arranging group walks. ○ with disabilities, to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs. ○ of specific ethnicities to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs in underrepresented communities. • Provide targeted information, promotions and communication campaigns for all users, including: ○ different age groups, to ensure that there is clear information on individual PRoWs to enable people to make informed and safe plans for using them. ○ People with disabilities, to ensure that there is clear information on the accessibility of individual PRoWs to enable people to make informed and safe plans for using them. This would include

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						both physical disability, neurodiversity and mental disabilities. - People specific ethnicities to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs in underrepresented communities. - Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services. - Provide online and printed information for people to help with the use of the PRoW routes and attend events and training. - Facilitate guided walks and rides on the PRoW network to help encourage and attract new users to the network and travelling actively. - Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers that serve underrepresented user groups, including those with protected characteristics, to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs for all. - Engage and work in partnership with landowners and farmers to minimise conflict with livestock and users on the network. - Provide orienteering and map reading training session for user groups to empower users to confidently navigate the network. - Provide information provision and practical skills training to schools in Leicestershire on using the

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						PRoW network in line with the countryside code. To include getting to know signs and symbols using the countryside, being considerate and protecting the environment. • Recruit and support volunteers helping to manage the network • Host the Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF) open to local people from all walks of life helping involve people in the decision making, ensuring all users are represented. • Assist parish councils who want to help look after local paths in their areas.
Employment and the Economy Does the proposal create new employment in the area or boost local economy/use of services Does the proposal reduce unemployment and economic activity, improve workplace conditions, offer access to gaining new skills? Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- including the economic and environmental conditions in which people age and work	+		?		There is potential for improved PRoWs to be a viable commuting alternative whilst also offering health and wellbeing benefits. There are opportunities to work with interested employers, education establishments and individuals to increase skills through training, educational programmes and volunteering.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services and businesses. • Recruit and support volunteers to help manage the network whilst gaining knowledge and skills. • Host the LLAF open to local people from all walks of life helping involve people in the discussions, planning, and decision making processes that enable successful management of the network,

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					Promoting the use of the PRoWs for all, or part, of journeys to and from work/study.	helping forum members gain knowledge and skills. • Provide orienteering and map reading training session for user groups to empower users to confidently navigate the network and gain skills. • Provide information provision and practical skills training to schools in Leicestershire on using the PRoW network in line with the countryside code. • Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers, to promote, encourage and enable use of the PRoWs for all to access training, education and employment.
Transport Does the proposal impact on road safety, active travel, cycling and walking facilities and infrastructure Does the proposal cause community severance? Or impact on accessing Public transport?	+			!	The Plan is a fundamental part of the wider Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and is designed to facilitate successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRoW network, increasing accessibility for all users promoting active travel and improving community severance.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRoW network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Implement Greenways programme to identify and improve priority routes between settlements – improving surfacing, signage and reducing stiles and replacing with gates or gaps in physical barriers, such as hedges and fence lines, to better connect communities.

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						• Provide information provision and practical skills training to schools in Leicestershire on using the PRow network in line with the countryside code. To include getting to know signs and symbols using the countryside, being considerate and protecting the environment. • Promote, encourage and enable the use of the PRowS for all, for health, wellbeing and as a means of sustainable transport for peoples' journeys.
Physical Activity Think about how the proposal may impact on people being physically active, participate in active play or active travel. Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.	+			!	The Plan is designed to encourage and enable active travel such as walking, cycling and riding. By making improvements to accessibility, safety and general appeal, alongside increasing awareness, the PRowS provide a free and inclusive way of encouraging physical activity for all.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Help increase physical activity through encouraging and enabling active travel on the PRow network. • Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRow network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Promote, encourage and enable the use of the PRowS for all, for physical and mental health, wellbeing and as a means of sustainable transport for peoples' journeys.

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						• Provide information provision and practical skills training to schools in Leicestershire on using the PRow network in line with the countryside code.
Housing Think about any effects the proposal may have on the affordability of housing, Affordability of heating home, neighbourhood design, access to green/blue space. Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- the economic and environmental conditions in which people live, age and play	+			!	The RoWIP will improve and maintain free access to green and blue spaces for all people helping reduce inequalities. The RoWIP will also increase connectivity between settlements and their communities, improving access to essential services. This includes maximising opportunities to improve the network through the planning arena.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRow network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Ensure the latest relevant information regarding the PRow is included in the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide, to aid land developers, their agents and other parties when designing and delivering developments. • Provide formal advice to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), and Secretary of State (SoS), on planning applications that are directly affected by the PRow. • Act as a point of expertise, to advise land developers and their agents on development proposals that may directly affect the PRow. • Ensure that the necessary PRow improvements are obligated from relevant parties as part of housing and employment

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						land development, and support their delivery through Section 106 funding use. - Provide PRow input into Local Plan process, to ensure access opportunities are maximised to connect communities as part of long-term land development. - Ensure Green Infrastructure proposals are aligned to access and the PRow network, including mitigating flood risks. - Provide advice and work with Government agencies, including Network Rail, on infrastructure improvements.
Diet and Nutrition Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from accessing healthy food choices, affordability of healthy choices, ability to grow own food. Does the proposal impact on sustainable food production? Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.	+		?		The RoWIP will also increase connectivity between settlements and their communities, improving access to essential services and employment potentially helping to address financial inequalities in affordability of healthy food.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: - Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRow network infrastructure, in order to facilitate use of the network for all current and future users. - Implement Greenways programme to identify and improve priority routes between settlements – improving surfacing, signage and reducing stiles and replacing with gates or gaps in physical barriers, such as hedges and fence lines, to better connect communities by improving access to essential services, training/education and employment.

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Education and skills Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from improving their educational attainment? Impact on opportunities to develop new skills? Providing opportunities for volunteering/ apprentices. Educational attainment is linked to health behaviours and health outcomes.	+		?		There are opportunities to work with interested employers, education establishments and individuals to increase skills through training, educational programmes and volunteering. Opportunities in promoting, encouraging and enabling the use of the PRoWs for all, or part, of journeys to and from training and education.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: - Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services including training and education establishments. - Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRoW network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. - Recruit and support volunteers to help manage the network whilst gaining knowledge and skills. - Host the LLAF open to local people from all walks of life helping involve people in the discussions, planning, and decision making processes that enable successful management of the network, helping forum members gain knowledge and skills. - Provide orienteering and map reading training session for user groups to empower users to confidently navigate the network and gain skills. - Provide information provision and practical skills training to schools in Leicestershire on using the PRoW network in line with the countryside code. - Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers, to promote, encourage and enable use of the

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						PRoWs for all to access training, education and employment.

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Air Quality & Noise Think about how air pollution and noise could be impacted reducing car use, traffic congestion, reducing noise disturbances	+		?		An increase in use of the PRoWs, particularly for commuting/necessary journeys, should directly reduce the number of miles travelled by car or	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRoW

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					other polluting vehicles within Leicestershire. This will improve congestion and air quality. Successful management of trees and vegetation improves air quality and biodiversity.	network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services. • Support management of trees and vegetation on the network to maintain and improve biodiversity and a healthy environment, including twice annual programme of cutting and clearing path maintenance.
Crime Reduction and Community Safety Does the proposal discourage crime and antisocial behaviour, reduce fear of crime, promote safe environment.	+		?		The Plan provides opportunities to improve and maintain paths to improve safety and perceptions of safety of users on the network. This includes implementing and applying enforcement protocol for third-party owners of overgrown vegetation on paths. Overgrown vegetation in urban environments can lead to users entering the carriageway, increasing risk of conflict with motor vehicles and associated road safety impacts.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: • Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRoW network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services via routes that segregate user from the main road network and motor vehicles, reducing risks of conflict and road collision related casualties.

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					Some more isolated overgrown routes could be particularly off-putting due to concerns about personal safety.	• Support management of trees and vegetation on the network, including twice annual programme of cutting and clearing path maintenance. • Apply enforcement protocol on third-party owners of overgrown vegetation to ensure paths are safe and clear for users. • Ensure the latest relevant information regarding the PRoWs is included in the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide, to aid land developers, their agents and other parties when designing and delivering developments to help improve safety, including maximising natural surveillance of paths through urban environments. • Provide formal advice to LPAs, and SoS, on planning applications that are directly affected by the PRoWs. • Act as a point of expertise to advise land developers and their agents on development proposals that may directly affect the PRoWs. • Ensure that the necessary PRoW improvements are obligated from relevant parties as part of housing and employment land development, and support their delivery through Section 106 funding use.

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Alcohol, Tobacco, Illegal drug use Does the proposal impact on the supply/use of alcohol and tobacco. Will it create an environment that discourages illegal drug use? Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health.						N/A
Energy Use, Waste Minimisation Does the proposal impact on energy use, energy efficiency and waste?	+		?		The resulting reduction in use of fuelled transport will lead to an improvement in energy use (fuel) and emissions.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: - Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRow network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. - Promote the PRow network and its use via Choose How You Move (CHYM), and forums to encourage and enable all users to travel sustainably to help reduce some car journeys.
Access to Public Services Does the proposal may impact demand for local services. Does the proposal impact on accessing health or social care services. Health inequalities can be driven where there are differences in distribution of resources, services	+		?		As with access to employment and education, some improvements to certain PRowS could provide a real alternative to private vehicles in accessing public services.	Include actions in the Action Plan to: - Better connect communities by creating a 'Greenways network' of high quality accessible routes connecting settlements increasing social cohesion and improving access to local essential services. - Support the successful management, maintenance and improvement of the PRow

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						network infrastructure, in order to facilitate the use of the network for all current and future users. • Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers, to promote, encourage and enable the use of the PRowS for all. • Promote the PRow network and its use via CHYM, and forums to encourage and enable all users to travel sustainably to help reduce some car journeys.

Useful Contacts

Advice and support to fill out this form can be obtained through the Public Health team please email HIA@leics.gov.uk