

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027 Priorities</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>19 April 2017</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Tracy Jessop, Assistant Director Highways and Transport</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan is a strategic document and action plan which aims to guide the way we manage and improve our access network, including public rights of way (PROW) and long distance trails, for the benefit of the communities who use it and the habitats impacted by it.	

## Executive summary

The Statement of Actions for the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2017-2027 (the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Norfolk) will be a statement of the action Norfolk County Council proposes to take for the management of Public Rights of Way and for securing an improved network of public rights of way.

### Recommendations:

**These are changed to reflect the findings of the assessment and current Council resources as in the proposal below.**

## 1. Proposal (or options)

1.1. Currently our draft aims and objectives are:

### Our Aims

- Health and Wellbeing
- Business
- Community
- Collaborative working with partner organisations

### Objectives

- Encourage sustainable management of the countryside access network so that it is better able to meet the varying demands placed upon it.
- Improve public health and well-being, economic and environmental benefit.
- Actively seek involvement of communities.
- Take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to responsibilities and resources.
- Actively seek opportunities to increase investment in the countryside access network.
- Develop an integrated network that provides opportunities for all users.

- Improve the interpretation and understanding of Norfolk's landscape and natural and built heritage through improvements to the countryside access network.
- Maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the countryside access network.
- Mitigate impacts of new infrastructure on landscape and environment
- Evolve the access network in response to meet the needs of new and future development

We propose that the priorities for the Statement of Actions should be:

1. A well signed, maintained and easily accessible network
2. An integrated network providing for the requirements of all users
3. A well promoted network, taking full advantage of digital technologies and online facilities
4. Community involvement developing, promoting and maintaining the network
5. Supporting local economies and businesses through links and enhancements to the network
6. Encouraging use of the network from those not currently taking advantage of it, particularly those with health issues
7. Protecting the environment from recreational impact through improved planning
8. Sustainable transport and a network well linked to public transport

## **2. Evidence**

- 2.1. As Highways Authority NCC has a duty under the CROW Act 2000 to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1. None because the plan aligns with existing commitments

## **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 4.1. We will align the plan with Public Health outcome. Risks are minimal, but we will require some external funding to complete the plan (which poses a small risk to completion of the plan)

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. It is recommended that the new Statement of Actions should include only those actions that are sufficiently long term and strategic to be unlikely to become obsolete during the 10 year term of the NAIP. Short and medium term actions and those arising from other specific plans or legislation should be incorporated into an annexed Delivery Plan updated annually. Contents should include
  1. Key Aims and Priorities arising from the Assessment

2. Long term strategic commitments
3. Details of what will be deferred to Delivery Plans, how and when renewed and published
4. Details of the process that will be followed to make any changes to key policies relating to local rights of way should be identified

The key objectives in the 2007-2017 statement of actions are:

1. Develop a well signed maintained and easily accessible network
2. Develop and maintain an integrated network that provides for the requirements of all users
3. Improve promotion, understanding and use of the network
4. Encourage community involvement in improving and maintaining local rights of way
5. Develop a safe network of local rights of way
6. Prepare and publish an up to date and publicly available digitised Definitive Map
7. Protect and Enhance biodiversity associated with the network of public rights of way

## **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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