

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2011

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the approach to updating the North Yorkshire rights of way improvement plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire (ROWIP1) was produced in 2007 and covered the period up to the end of 2011.
- 2.2 The plan examined the public rights of way network in North Yorkshire and set out strategic aspirations for improvement of the management, maintenance, location and promotion of local rights of way over the plan period.
- 2.3 There is a requirement under the CROW Act to update the plan.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the updated plan will again cover the whole of North Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North York Moors National Park and will cover the period 2012 – 2016.

3.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The updated plan (ROWIP2) will seek to build on ROWIP1 and update the strategic context to cover the period up to the end of 2016.
- 3.2 Much of the background data gathered and the community consultation for ROWIP1 is still relevant and will not be repeated in ROWIP2, however as its' starting point ROWIP2 will review achievements between 2007-2011.
- 3.3 The objectives set out in RoWIP1 will be reviewed and updated for the next five year period and the original priorities, policies and actions will be revisited. The updated plan will seek to rationalise these and set out a series of revised principles which will steer the management of the public rights of way network over the next five years.

4.0 REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The Objectives identified by ROWIP 1 are still considered to be relevant and encompassing with regard to ensuring that management of the network is balanced and inclusive.
- 4.2 In addition there is merit in considering the interaction of the management approach with other environmental factors and so the sustainability objective will be widened to encompass environmental sustainability and climate change.
- 4.3 The revised objectives proposed for ROWIP2 are:
 - 1. Accessibility
 - 2. Usability
 - 3. Maintenance
 - 4. Economy
 - 5. Improvement
 - 6. Environmental sustainability and Climate change
 - 7. Health
 - 8. Safety
 - 9. Partnerships
- 4.4 The updated plan will consider each objective and identify principles arising from each which will guide our approach to managing the network.
- 4.5 Whilst it is anticipated many of these will be integrated into day to day activities, some will require specific actions and these will be assigned priorities to enable resources to be used to best effect.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The views of all three North Yorkshire LAF's on this approach to updating the plan are welcomed.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that a full draft ROWIP2 will be produced in advance of the next LAF meeting for detailed consultation.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 An update Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be produced to cover the period 2012 – 2016 and will cover the whole of North Yorkshire.
- 6.2 The views of the LAF's will be considered with regard to the approach to updating the plan and detailed consultations will be undertaken on the draft plan during the remainder of 2011.

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