

Agenda Item 8

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

25th September 2020

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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General Rights of Way Service during Covid-19 Pandemic

Following the Government announcement of the national lockdown to help limit the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on 23rd March 2020, Council officers were asked to work from home if it was possible for them to do so. All Planning Division staff were requested to work from home for the foreseeable future.

The Senior Planning Officer was redeployed part time (three days a week and then later two days a week) to the Derby Covid-19 Community Response Hub from early April 2020 to early September 2020 meaning that the Rights of Way Service was operating at a much reduced level during that period.

The Rights of Way Service is now operating full time although officers continue to work from home for the foreseeable future, which requires officers to make changes to the way they work.

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function.

Definitive map and path orders

As stated in previous reports, work continues to be carried out towards the production of the legal event modification orders that are required to bring the definitive map areas covering Derby up to date.

There are no ongoing applications for definitive map modification orders.

The Council has received two public path order applications with more expected to be submitted in the coming weeks.

Major path schemes

Darley Park Cycleway. The cycleway, which runs through Darley Park, north to south, has been completed.

Derby to Nottingham Cycle Route. The Derby section of this strategic route will follow the Spondon section of the former Derby Canal. Work has begun on the first sections of this path.

Sinfin Moor Park Permissive Bridleway. The proposed permissive circular horse-riding route through the park is being put out to consultation to the local park users and residents.

Derwent Valley Cycleway. Highways England is leading on this cycleway scheme linking Haslams Lane, Derby and Little Eaton. Preparation work on the scheme continues.

Plans and major funding schemes

Emergency Active Travel funding

Derby City has been allocated just over £200k to deliver emergency measures to facilitate cycling, walking and social distancing in the City. This funding is part Tranche 1 of the Emergency Active Travel Fund and schemes must be implemented within the next 7 weeks. Consequently, we have concentrated on schemes that are deliverable within the time frame.

The government has announced an indicative allocation of a further £800k (Tranche 2) for Derby to spend on more permanent schemes to address the same issues. We have invited local communities and ward members ideas to put forward ideas for more permanent schemes.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Transforming Cities Fund

The Council is working on procurement plans for delivering the £161m package of projects we successfully bid for with Nottingham City Council. Approximately £60m of the projects are Derby specific schemes but we will share the benefit from several joint projects. Our first Derby Mobility Board was on 22 July and we are aiming to establish a new Joint Transport Board which Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Department for Transport will be part of.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

Work on the next City RoWIP has been delayed. It is hoped that officers can meet with the City and County RoWIP joint subgroup to discuss our ideas at the earliest practical opportunity.

Derby City Local Plan

The government has proposed major changes to the planning system in its white paper: Planning for the Future, which was published for consultation on 6th August 2020. The consultation ends on 29th October 2020. The government states that "The Planning for the Future consultation proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed."

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There are no further updates since March 2020.

Council News

Derby City Council has announced plans to investigate the creation of a new unitary authority by the merger of the Council with its neighbouring district councils - South Derbyshire District Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Erewash Borough Council. It is considered that the unitary authority would offer better value.

The plans are designed to fit in with the Government's forthcoming Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper in which it is likely to require the replacement of county and district councils with unitary authorities.

Recommendation

To note this report.