

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT - CLLR PHILIP WHITEHEAD

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: HT-06-15

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015 - 2024

Purpose of Report

To adopt Wiltshire Council's Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015 – 2024 and accompanying policies.

Consultation

A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats assessment was undertaken with users of the rights of way network in the early stages of development of the plan.

A public consultation on the draft plan was undertaken and a wide range of organisations, users and adjacent authorities were invited to comment. These organisations are listed in **Appendix 1**. These comments were considered in the production of the final document. The consultation period was 12 weeks and ran from Friday 3 January to Friday 28 March 2014.

Options Considered

No other options were considered as the production of the document is a statutory requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

Reason for Decision

It is a statutory requirement of Wiltshire Council to produce the plan. The plan supports the aspirations of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan and sets the strategic direction and policies for much of the work that the Rights of Way and Countryside team undertake.

DECISION MADE

I approve that the Countryside Access Improvement Plan and associated policies will be adopted for the period 2015 – 2024. The policies will be reviewed when required. The main document will be considered again in 2019 to see if it is meeting the aspirations of the Wiltshire Council Business Plan and the needs of the Rights of Way and Countryside team.

This decision was published on 9 June 2015 and will come into force on 17 June 2015.

The following supporting documents are attached:

- Report
- Appendix 1 - Organisations contacted during production of the Countryside Access Improvement Plan
- Appendix 2 - Countryside Access Improvement Plan main document
- Appendix 3 - Countryside Access Improvement Plan appendices
- Appendix 4 - Rights of Way and Countryside Policies - Feb 2015
- Appendix 5 - LTP3 sub-strategies Habitat Regulations Assessment

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

Countryside Access Improvement Plan equality analysis

Date: 8 June 2015

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Cllr Philip Whitehead
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport