

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY STRATEGY

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY; HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To approve the Public Rights of Way Strategy. The Strategy is being circulate separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website and on request.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included on the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

THAT the Strategy be approved

Reasons

To set out the approach to establishing and managing rights of way in Herefordshire.

Considerations

1. One of the listed actions of the 2001 Best Value Review of the Public Rights of Way service was the production of a Rights of Way Strategy to give more focus for the allocation of resources including:-

- Where resources should be focussed
- How to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act
- Business plan with targets
- An enforcement policy and strategy
- The creation of an Asset Register
- How to promote PROW

The strategy targets the Council's principal priorities which contribute to the Herefordshire Plan. The Strategy is being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members Room, on the Council's website and on request.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Rob Hemblade on 01432 261981

2. The strategy will guide the rights of way service to become proactive and more able to meet the pressures placed upon it by new and existing legislation. It will achieve this through the identification of specific actions which are set against five key objectives:
 - Keeping an accurate legal record of public rights of way
 - Maintenance and enforcement
 - Improving the network
 - Publicity and promotion
 - Environmental management
3. Extensive consultation has been carried out and a number of relatively minor changes have been made to the draft strategy produced in March 2004 e.g. a detailed list of those individuals who responded to the consultation is now attached.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options

Risk Management

The adoption of a formal public rights of way strategy will guide the future delivery of the service.

Consultees

Parish Councils

Rights of Way Liaison Group

Herefordshire Local Access Forum

Elected Members

Selected heads of departments

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Neighbouring Authorities

Background Papers

None identified.