

West Berkshire District Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2025-2035 - Delivery Plan					
Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
THEME 1: LOOKING AFTER THE NETWORK					
Priority 1: To protect the network and maintain it in the best condition possible, prioritising safety and areas of greatest need and seeking improvements where possible					
Engage with landowners to support them and provide advice on the good maintenance of public rights of way.	1	CB	1. Liaise with National Landscapes regarding their engagement with landowners. 2. Speak to the National Farmers' Union about the best approach. 3. Increase team knowledge of farm payment schemes. 4. Investigate IT methods of communicating easily with landowners.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Survey the condition of all public rights of way every ten years, using volunteers in between.	2	££	1. Keep an ongoing record of lessons learnt for the next survey. 2. Ensure that volunteer surveying groups use best practice to keep records up-to-date.		Services we are proud of.
Ensure priority PROWs are kept clear of vegetation and keep the priority maintenance list under regular review.	3	CB	1. Explore and plan measures to reduce vegetation growth e.g. removal of arisings from path surface/hedge laying. 2. Remind landowners to cut their hedges.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Resolve signage defects by April each year, alternating urban and rural locations. Add destinations at strategic locations.	4	CB	1. Resolve all defects in urban locations in 2025/26 and rural locations in 2026/27. 2. Begin to explore best locations for destination signage e.g. to canal, and inter-village.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Create 1 to 3 year specific targets for dealing with unsatisfactory structures on PROWs.	5	CB	1. Create a realistic target document to include measures to deal with rotting wood.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.

Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
Annually review all seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders and create management plans for the PROWs involved.	6	CB	1. Review all Bucklebury temporary traffic regulation orders with Bucklebury Parish Council in January 2026, and form a revised plan for future repairs and closures in liaison with the Bucklebury Common Interest Group.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Promote the use of best practice for the surfacing of multi-user paths.	7	CB	1. Ongoing upkeep of knowledge e.g. via IPROW. 2. Liaise with WBC highway engineering colleagues.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Regular checks of signage and access points to statutory open access land (CROW Act land).	8	CB	1. Clarify the legal record of Open Access Land. 2. Audit each area for existing access and signage standards.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Priority 2: To improve environmental sustainability of public rights of way maintenance and contribute to environmental and climate stewardship.					
Include environmental sustainability in all public rights of way works and plans.	9	CB	1. Identify suitable training for the PROW team.		Services we are proud of. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency.
List public rights of way within ecologically sensitive or heritage sites and create appropriate management plans.	10	£	1. Review and update the team checklist of key items to consider when carrying out works.		Services we are proud of. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency.
Identify popular 'honeypot' locations and work with partners to disperse recreational pressure.	11	££	1. Use at least one promotional item to encourage people to explore other areas. Mention local facilities e.g. pub, shop.		Services we are proud of. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Plan measures to reduce the impacts of climate change on PROW structures and surfaces, including management of drainage.	12	££	1. Continue work to identify climate-resilient structures e.g. aluminium posts. 2. Refer to existing work done to identify high-risk areas. 3. Continue work to improve drainage from PROW surfaces.		Services we are proud of. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency.
THEME 2: AN EVOLVING NETWORK					
Priority 3: Ensure that access is strategically planned and delivered to meet the needs of West Berkshire's residents					

Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
Plan public rights of way work strategically alongside other council teams, e.g. Highways, Leisure, Health, Planning and Environment. Develop working partnerships to deliver projects.	13	CB	1. Create dialogue with all teams, starting with an introductory email or meeting on the adoption of the ROWIP.		Services we are proud of.
Ensure that priorities in this ROWIP are included in relevant external plans and strategies and in Neighbourhood Development Plans.	14	CB	1. Send the adopted ROWIP to all Parish Councils, draw attention to policies which can be used for local projects.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Support projects to increase walking and cycling for short journeys.	15	£ - £££	1. Identify useful links which could be improved (e.g. routes to school already identified).		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Priority 4: Ensure that the network evolves to meet current and future needs of users and that connectivity is improved.					
Ensure that high-quality, multi-user access improvements are included in and around new developments, addressing the needs of the area. Ensure that maintenance of new or improved routes is secured.	16	CB	1. Increase knowledge of planning policy to use requests for S.106 and CIL funding more vigorously.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Seek new and improved traffic-free links for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists including road verges and permissive access. New links and improvements to be defined and listed with target completion date.	17	£ - £££	1. Seek internal advice on how best to identify user demand. 2. Refer to the 2010 ROWIP 'desired improvements' mapping layer. 3. Liase with Local Access Forum.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Continue to improve understanding of the need and demand of all users, exploring better use of data to identify access needs and trends.	18	CB	1. Refer back to user responses to ROWIP and follow up for more information if required.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Improve understanding of the needs of equestrians on the PROW network, including a review of desired improvements from the 2010 ROWIP.	19	CB	1. Refer back to user responses to ROWIP and follow up for more information if required.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.

Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
Produce a report of all unsatisfactory equestrian gates and obstructions for equestrians. Engage with British Horse Society over priorities for resolution.	20	£	1. Complaints about equestrian gates are not being received - speak to equestrians about what are their true priorities.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Priority 5: To uphold the council's legal duties to provide an up-to-date definitive map and statement					
Incorporate legal changes into a new Consolidated Definitive map and Statement by 2030.	21	CB			Services we are proud of.
Incorporate Definitive Map anomalies into the annual work programmes.	22	CB	1. Covered by the annual Path Order Case Programme produced by the Definitive Map Officer.		Services we are proud of.
Consider all applications for definitive map modification orders, including for the recording of unrecorded or under-recorded PROWs, and determine these in line with priority criteria.	23	CB	1. Covered by the annual Path Order Case Programme produced by the Definitive Map Officer.		Services we are proud of.
Review regularly the path orders priority criteria and charging schedules.	24	CB	1. Covered by the annual Path Order Case Programme produced by the Definitive Map Officer.		Services we are proud of.
THEME 3: HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES					
Priority 6: Improve the accessibility of public rights of way so that more people can use them for enjoyment, health and mental wellbeing					
Use data on infrastructure to prioritise removal of unnecessary obstacles and make surface improvements around populous areas.	25	£ - £££	1. Use existing data to identify quick wins via easy improvements in these areas. 2. Liaise with Wellbeing Walks colleagues.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Replace stiles with new easy access gates or gaps at 10 locations per year.	26	££	1. Replace stiles with new easy access gates or gaps at 10 locations, prioritising populous areas and obvious areas of need.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Use data on infrastructure to prioritise accessibility improvements.	27	£ - £££	An underlying principle to actions 25, 26, 29 and 30.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Record existing accessible routes and ensure they are maintained as accessible.	28	££	1. Use existing data on 'surface type' and internal PROW knowledge to begin to map these routes. 2. Ask volunteer surveyors to report on accessibility detail.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.

Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
Gain a greater understanding of inclusive access, including for disabled people and under-represented groups. Design suitable access provision and promotion.	29	££	1. Refer back to user responses to ROWIP and follow up for more information if required. 2. Explore the use of term contractor WSP.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Create and publicise 5 new accessible routes per year, at least one of which should be of the scale of a capital project.	30	£ - £££	Create and publicise 5 new accessible routes, at least one of which should be of the scale of a capital project. Prioritise populous areas and obvious areas of need.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Priority 7: Improve information provision to enable more people to use public rights of way, support the economy and reduce conflicts					
Include accessibility information in all new promotion.	31	CB	1. Include accessibility information in all new promotion.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Improve public mapping to show levels of accessibility, public transport, and other information so people can make informed choices.	32	£	1. Speak to WBC internal GIS colleagues. 2. Explore the use of term contractor WSP. 3. Ask volunteer surveyors to report on accessibility detail.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all.
Review existing promotional material to be consistent with this ROWIP.	33	£	For a future year - the material is available on-line so is of use already.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Produce at least 3 promotional items each year.	34	£	Produce at least 3 promotional items. Note target in Actions 11 and 36.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Support partners in developing new promoted routes, considering in particular those with health and wellbeing needs, those in deprived communities, and the rural economy.	35	£	This is largely reactive, but sending the ROWIP to Parish Councils could act as a catalyst for requests for support.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Encourage responsible use of the countryside via publicity and use of the Countryside Code.	36	CB	1. At least one promotional item to cover this aspect.		Services we are proud of. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
THEME 4: EFFECTIVE DELIVERY					
Priority 8: Ensure that this ROWIP is resourced and delivered, and that progress is monitored and the plan reviewed.					

Action Title	Action Number	Resourcing / Core Business (CB)	Proposed Year 1(2026-27) target to be agreed with Portfolio Holder and in consultation with the Local Access Forum	Red/Yellow/Amber progress	Links to Council Strategy 2023-27
Seek additional resources to deliver this ROWIP as necessary.	37	CB	1. Seek necessary funding for elements in Year 1.		Services we are proud of.
Work with partners to ensure the priorities of this ROWIP are included in strategies, policies and funding bids.	38	CB	Related to Action 13.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Produce annual targets against the Actions in this Delivery Plan, to be approved by the Portfolio.	39	CB	See this column.		Services we are proud of.
Assess this ROWIP after 5 years to ensure it continues to align with West Berkshire's priorities and new information.	40	CB			Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Review this ROWIP after 10 years.	41	CB			Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Priority 9: Increase involvement and working with partners, communities and volunteers					
Develop working partnerships both within the council and with external partners to develop and deliver projects.	42	CB	Related to Actions 13 and 38.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Explore and expand volunteering opportunities. Seek a Volunteer Support Officer (voluntary) to expand volunteering and community action.	43	££	1. Work with the Newbury Volunteer Bureau to recruit a Volunteer Support Officer during 2026.		Services we are proud of. A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Develop partnerships with Parish and Town Councils to deliver improvements to the PROW network and priorities of this ROWIP.	44	£	1. Continue and expand the existing fruitful relationships with some Parish Councils. 2. Sending of the ROWIP to all Parish Councils may be a catalyst for wider discussions.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Priority 10: To continue to maintain high levels of customer satisfaction and seek ways to improve.					
Continually improve visibility of reporting mechanisms for the public, and achieve timely provision of feedback.	45	CB	1. Improve ongoing updates on projects to customers, via IT means if possible.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Periodically seek customer feedback on provision of services.	46	CB	1. A feedback option is available to the public in the WDM customer reporting mechanism. Continue to act on all feedback.		Services we are proud of. Thriving communities with a strong local voice.