



Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Merseyside 2008-2018

Progress Report on Year 1 Delivery 2008/2009

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN
MERSEYSIDE



Public
Transport



Goods



Walking



Cycling



Traffic

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Rights Of Way Improvement Plan for Merseyside Progress Report on Year 1 Delivery, 2008/2009

1. Introduction

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Merseyside (ROWIP) is a joint plan that has been prepared between the five respective Highway Authorities (Liverpool City Council and the Metropolitan Borough Councils of Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) in conjunction with Merseytravel, the Passenger Transport Authority and Executive that coordinates public transport on Merseyside.

As a strategic document the ROWIP requires the production of an annual progress report to identify progress from the previous year. This document is the first annual report following the publication and approval of the Merseyside ROWIP in 2008 and reports on progress during the financial year 2008/2009. This report should be considered in conjunction with the full ROWIP document and the Year 1 Business Plan.

2. The ROWIP Vision

Our vision is to develop a more attractive, more accessible and inclusive network of Rights of Way. This will create greater potential for leisure and recreation, contributing to the physical and mental well being of residents and visitors to Merseyside and provide people with choice and opportunity to travel by more sustainable means to access local services, education and employment.

3. The Focus of Year 1 delivery

For the ROWIP's Year 1 business plan, partners developed a series of proposed actions to set the foundation for subsequent year's improvements.

Almost all of the proposals within year 1 were small scale schemes designed to bring a range of improvements across the Public Rights of Way network for a wide range of users. It was anticipated that in this way delivery would have a much more positive impact for users who would see ROWIP improvements throughout Merseyside and across each Borough.

The focus for delivery was:

- Education

- Promotion
- Making the network more appealing and accessible to users
- Filling in the gaps, creating greater links and increasing provision
- Increased multi user access
- Protecting routes
- Cross boundary partnership working

4. **The beneficiaries of Year 1 improvements.**

The ROWIP is an access for all plan, which intends to improve access to the network for all types of users. In the Year 1 business plan the delivery of a number of small scale improvements to the Public Rights of Way network were designed to benefit:

- Walkers
- Cyclists
- Horse Riders
- People with Mobility Impairments
- Recreational Motorists
- Carriage Drivers
- Landowners
- Under represented groups (young people, those people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and people living in areas of social exclusion).
- Infrequent or non users (people who cite no time, not knowing the location of routes, insufficient information and no current interest as reasons for not using the network).
- Other recreational users (people undertaking additional recreational activities outside the scope of the plan but who may benefit from access improvements. For example Anglers, Canoeists etc.

5. **Year 1 Delivery**

As a joint plan the ROWIP aims to create partnership working and a consistency of improvements across the County, each Highway Authority is responsible for the delivery of the plan in their area. Each Authority developed its own Business Plan based on the ROWIPs findings, together with the individual characteristics access network in that area. Other, generic actions required partnership working between the Highway Authorities to provide a consistency of Countywide improvements. These make up the joint business plan actions. Section 6 of this document reports on the progress of the Year 1 Actions this year:

6. Joint Actions

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Produce leaflet to advise public of their role in claims process. (MAP6).	Completed	Leaflet has now been produced and will be made widely available to ensure that the public are aware of the claims process and how they can assist in improving and enlarging the local rights of way network.
Increase network inspections, annual vegetation cutting and surface maintenance programmes. (INSP1).	Not achieved	Additional funding for this action was not obtained. This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Increase cleansing regimes on the Public Rights of Way and off road cycle networks. (ENV2).	Not achieved	Additional funding for this action was not obtained. This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Produce and adopt a Merseyside wide enforcement policy. (INSP3).	Completed	Merseyside now has a Countywide enforcement policy. This will provide a consistent approach to addressing problems and will also advise landowners of their rights and responsibilities.
Rights of Way Officer user safety training. (INSP8).	Completed	Training skills can now be implemented.
Rights of Way Officers to undertake disability equality action training. (Acc7).	Completed	Training skills can now be implemented.
Additional signing and way marking in appropriate locations. (INFO1, 2).	Completed	This will help avoid user conflict, unintentional trespass and reduce user's uncertainty and fear of getting lost.
Produce code of conduct leaflet for users and landowners. (INFO3).	Completed	The production of a code of conduct for using the rights of way network will help educate users about their responsibilities when using the network to assist in preventing any potential conflict.
Countywide review of Public Rights of Way web page content. (INFO4).	Completed	The results of the review will be used in the future to ensure the Local Authority Rights of Way WebPages provide consistent good quality information.
Countywide review of Rights of Way promotional materials. (INFO9)	Completed	The results of the review will be used in the future to ensure that promotional materials remain relevant, up to date and appealing to the widest range of users.

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Countywide review of the distribution of Public Rights of Way promotional materials. (INFO7).	Completed	The results of the review will be used in the future to ensure that promotional materials reach the widest possible audiences.
Develop GIS Mapping layer of Public Rights of Way to be used in Accessibility modelling. (PROV5)	Completed	The development of a mapping layer of Public Rights of Way within accessibility modelling provides the opportunity for Rights of Way to contribute to this important Local Authority agenda. In the future it is important for these two areas of work to integrate further.
Develop signage at the beginning of key routes to indicate their use to access local amenities, employment and education. (TRAN8).	Not achieved	Additional funding for this action was not obtained. This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Develop guidance for owners of animals kept or exercised in close proximity to Public Rights of Way. (SECT7).	Completed	This will help reduce conflict between users, inform animal owners of their responsibilities and help reduce barriers to use.
Further develop the Merseyside ROWIP website to act as a gateway linking to Local Authority websites (Info5).	Completed	Initial work has been undertaken to further develop the website.
Support and develop closer partnership working with DEFRA in relation to Environmental Stewardship schemes on Merseyside to ensure that routes compliment the present network of access (Plan2).	Completed	The ROWIP partnership has engaged DEFRA with a view to support and develop closer partnership working. This will continue to develop during the ROWIPs life.

District Actions

Knowsley

Improvement	Progress	Further Information
Replacing / Repairing signs, signposts and way markers.	Completed	This work has been carried out as required across the borough, following a full network survey.
Access Improvements.	3 schemes completed	Contact officer for details.
Surface improvements.	Not achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Definitive map work.	Completed	The previously outdated definitive map has now been replaced with an updated map with a relevant date of 2008.
Develop a strategy / mechanism for recording all paths that are not included on the Definitive Map or the List of Streets.	Not achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Identify potential links that could enhance the existing Public Rights of Way network and where appropriate add to the Definitive Map.	Ongoing	This has become an ongoing action.
Develop strategy / mechanism for safety inspections on the Public Rights of Way network.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Survey each path to assess how accessible the path is for the various types and abilities of users.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan and will be undertaken on a parish by parish basis.
Identify linkages between the Public Rights of Way network and the local cycleway networks.	Completed	This has helped to develop the Cycle map for Knowsley.

Improvement	Progress	Further Information
Seek support from landowners and other Council Departments toward the development of the "Knowsley Way" Halewood to Kirby long distance multi user route.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Continue to develop partnership working with the Primary Care Trust in engaging community participation in walking and cycling events across the Borough.	Ongoing	Successful through the Knowsley walking festival and the production of jointly funded promotional materials, e.g. "walks in Knowsley" booklet.

Liverpool

Improvement	Progress	Further Information
5 Definitive Map Modification Orders.	Ongoing	New routes to be added to the definitive map for Liverpool. This action will roll over into the Year 2.
Surface improvements to Hornby Road / Ferguson Road.	Completed	These improvement provide easier access for users.
Signage to the Trans Pennine Trail along Queens Drive.	Completed	This information provides cyclists with information regarding safe of road alternative routes, assisting with road safety.
Liverpool Rights of Way Officer to undertake approved training course.	Completed	Training completed on network safety and disability awareness.
Identify cause and action required to resolve flooding at beginning of Mersey way route.	Completed	Work to resolve the flooding problem has also been completed, thus providing easier access.
Mersey way route cleansing.	Completed	Neighbourhood Management Teams paid for clearance of flytipping. Route to be included onto definitive map and will form part of future inspection and maintenance regime.
Implementation of Council Gating Policy.	Ongoing	No further comments at present.
Scoping study of proposed resurfacing of Croxteth Bridleway.	Completed	Background work completed ahead of any future project.

Setton

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Improvements to surface of Formby BOAT44 (part of Trans Pennine Trail).	Completed	Thus providing improved access for users.
Improvements to surface of Formby Bridleway 2 (Montagu Road).	Ongoing	Preparatory work undertaken in Year 1, improvements to be undertaken starting April 2009 (Year 2).
Purchase CAMs including palm computer to assist in completion of network survey.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Update and reprint promotional booklet.	Completed	To provide users with up to date, practical information on the Setton network. This also complements the Setton Tourism strategy.
Develop and print doorstep guides for one parish per annum.	Not Achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Carry out accessibility audit on part of the network to establish suitability for development of mobility / visually impaired routes.	Not achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Develop identified route for mobility and visually impaired users, including transport links, car parking and user guide.	Not achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Definitive Map Modification Order Wicks Lane.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Definitive Map Modification Order School Lane, Aintree.	Not achieved	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Officer Training for network safety and the development of routes for mobility impaired users.	Completed	New skills developed can now be implemented.

St Helens

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Develop Walks leaflets.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Full inspection of the Public Rights of Way network.	Ongoing	This task has begun but due to the nature of the work involved it is likely to roll over into Year 2.
Development of footbridge at Moss	Not achieved	Additional problems with flooding at this site have impacted on delivery, further works are now required, this

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Nook.		will roll over into Year 2.
New surface to path at Carmel College.	Completed	Completed – providing a safe route to school and an easy to use route for walkers and cyclists.
Secure Access Agreement at Carr Mill Dam	Not Achieved	No further progression.
Formal recognition of the Council's Greenway network and other routes to enable there appropriate use by cyclists and horse riders.	Not achieved	No further progression.
Coordination of Council Promotional materials for walking, cycling and outdoor access.	Not achieved	This will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Development and delivery of the Sankey Valley Action Plan	Not achieved	No further progression.
Diversion and creation of routes.	Not achieved	This will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Identification and implementation of routes to access "Green Infrastructure."	Not achieved	No further progression.

Wirral

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Surface improvements to Footpaths 43 & 72 "The Dungeon."	Completed	Creation of easier access routes for mobility impaired users.
Limbo lane and China Plate farm verge side improvements.	Ongoing	This action will roll over to the Year 2 business plan.
Way marking.	Ongoing	Increased way marking has taken place in Year 1 and this will be an ongoing action throughout the life of the ROWIP.
Wirral Walks promotional guide.	Completed	Developed and made available to the public.
Pilot programme to improve historic footpath sign posts.	Completed	Looking to roll out further in the future. Has been beneficial in securing work through the probation service.
Survey of network to establish suitable routes for mobility impaired users.	Ongoing	Good progress has been made on this in Year 1 and this will continue in subsequent years.

Improvement	Progress	Further information
Officer training.	Completed	User safety and disability awareness training.
Identify areas of demand for cycling and horse riding through user group consultation.	Ongoing	Good progress has been made on this in Year 1 and this will continue in subsequent years.
Develop strong links with Equestrian groups to encourage claims for routes and increased route provision.	Ongoing	Good progress has been made on this in Year 1 and this will continue in subsequent years.
Strengthen links with primary care trusts and other health organisations.	Ongoing	Good progress has been made on this in Year 1 and this will continue in subsequent years.
Development of the Bidston Hill accessible trail	On hold	Delivery is dependent upon securing funding from the European Regional Development Fund. This action is bidding for funding through action area 3.3.
Surface improvements to Bridleway No43, Willaston.	Not achieved	This action will be progresses in Year 3.

7. Examples of Best Practice.

Throughout the delivery of the Year 1 programme a number of actions and specific improvements have been delivered that clearly demonstrate best practice in relation to the ROWIP and Rights of Way Improvements.

ROWIP Objectives.

Issue	ROWIP Objective
Definitive Maps & Statements. (OBJ1)	To ensure that the legal record of Public Rights of Way is accurately maintained.
Current network inspection, maintenance and enhancement. (OBJ2)	To improve the condition of the Public Rights of Way network, through inspection, maintenance and enhancement.
Education, information provision and promotion. (OBJ3)	To provide practical, accessible and inclusive information to encourage use and promote the benefits and opportunities Public Rights of Way provide.
Increasing network connectivity & provision. (OBJ4)	To seek to improve provision and connectivity with the wider network of access.
Public Rights of Way - tackling Social Exclusion and under represented groups. (OBJ5)	Access for all, to increase opportunities for young people, black and minority ethnic groups, people with mobility impairments and those experiencing social exclusion.
Improving opportunities for users. (OBJ6)	To improve choice and opportunities for users of the Public Rights of Way network.
Public Rights of Way and Health. (OBJ7)	To promote the health benefits associated with using the Public Rights of Way network.
Public Rights of Way and Sustainable Transport. (OBJ8)	Improving sustainable transport links to the Public Rights of Way network whilst promoting and improving the network as a sustainable means to access education, employment, local services and the countryside.
Public Rights of Way and the Environment. (OBJ9)	To ensure that developments and improvements to the Public Rights of Way network enhance the natural environment and the enjoyment of users.
Public Rights of Way and Tourism. (OBJ10)	To utilise Public Rights of Way to contribute positively to the local tourist economy.
Establishing greater links between Public Rights of Way and developments, plans and strategies. (OBJ11)	To ensure that Public Rights of Way are considered as part of the planning process and integrated with the shared aims and objectives of other plans and strategies.
Public Rights of Way and the potential for crime and antisocial behaviour. (OBJ12)	Making the network more secure and seeking to resolve incidences of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Example of Best Practice	District	Action	Examples of ROWIP objectives met
Signage and Way marking	Knowsley	The entire Rights of Way network has been signed and way marked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj3
Publication of the Definitive map	Knowsley	The previous 1966 map has been replaced by an updated legal record of the Public Rights of Way network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj1
Primary Care Trust (PCT) partnership working	Knowsley	Partnership working with Knowsley PCT through events on the PROW network that promote healthy living thorough walking and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj7
Footpath improvements to PROW 32.	Liverpool	Through consultation and partnership a local developer resurfaced the footpath to improve access free of charge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj11
Footpath surface improvements and improved DDA access controls to PROW 34.	Liverpool	This path provides an important link to St Michaels Railway station. Surface improvements have improved access for pedestrians to the station and DDA compliant access controls allow mobility impaired users to use the path.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj6 Obj8 Obj12
Success of the guided walks programme.	Setton	Setton have recently undertaken a successful programme of walks on the PROW network that attracted record numbers of people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj3 Obj5 Obj7 Obj10
Completion of the Setton Coastal path multuser route.	Setton	This path runs between Hightown and Hall Road along the Setton coast. Surface improvements now provide access for walkers and cyclists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj10 Obj4
Resurfacing of Carmel College path no401.	St Helens	Surface improvements to a safe route to school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obj8

Other examples of Best Practice include:

- Development of Rights of Way User Group (Wirral).
- Publication of walking and cycling guides (Sefton).
- Surface improvements and drainage work to link bridleway network for Equestrians in the Thurstaston /Arrowe Park area (Wirral).
- Resolution of flooding problems at access point to Merseyway (long distance route) (Liverpool).
- Resurfacing work and removal of fly tipping to improve Prow 15 Brecksides Road to Townsend Lane (Liverpool).
- Use of probation service for Rights of Way maintenance and vegetation clearance (Wirral).
- Merseyside ROWIP instrumental in setting up of the North West Regional Access Officers Group and taking lead on pilot study into cross boundary working. (All Authorities)
- Development of the North West Coastal Trail (Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral).
- Development of Tommy's Path – Improvements to Wirral footpath4, Clatterbridge. Creating outdoor recreational opportunities for families at Claire House, a hospice that aims to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with life threatening or life limiting conditions.

8. The ROWIP contributing to other areas of Local Authority Activity

The following table represents some examples of how delivery of ROWIP actions has and can contributed to other areas of Local Authority activity:

Local Authority Activity	ROWIP related actions.
Walking and cycling	Development of new routes, resurfacing and maintenance, for example, resurfacing of path 15 Liverpool. Network promotion, for examples, the publication of the Walking and Cycling guides in Sefton,
Health	Partnership working with PCT, for example, the Knowlsey walking festival.
Safer routes to Schools	Network development to encourage use of the network as a safe route to school. For example, the resurfacing of path 401, Carmel college, St Helens.
Equality	Development of routes for mobility impaired users, for example, DDA compliant improvements to paths 43 and 72 Heswall, Wirral.
Planning Agendas	Working in partnership with developers, for example, path 32, Liverpool.
Community engagement	Engaging the community. For example, the Sefton guided walks programme and the development of a Rights of Way user group, Wirral.
Access to goods, services and education.	Development of a GIS Mapping layer of the entire public Rights of way network to be used in accession modelling.
Tourism	The development of the Sefton Coastal Path Multiuser route, an important element of the authorities Tourism strategy.
Sustainable transport	Pedestrian link to railway station. For example, the resurfacing and development of path 34 linking a residential are to St Michael's station.
Leisure	Resurfacing work and drainage improvements to Equestrian routes in and around Thurstaston and Arrowe Park areas, Wirral.
Environment	Commitment to using Environmentally friendly and sustainable materials. Rights of Way officers also work closely with landowners to introduce means to prevent fly tipping.

9. **Impacts on delivery**

In preparing the Year 1 business plan a risk assessment was undertaken to identify the risks which could impact upon delivery. The following table represents the factors that did impact on delivery:

Identified Risk	Assessment
Officer resources	Increases in officer workload, additional duties and other unforeseen circumstances reduced the opportunity for the delivery of actions in the year 1 business plan.
Funding	In the first year of delivery the ROWIP was unable to attract the required level of funding to deliver all actions.
Recession	The economic downturn that is presently being experienced has resulted in a number of development opportunities either being put on hold or withdrawn. The ROWIP intended to deliver improvements through section 106 agreements, but in the present circumstances the lack of development presently being undertaken limits the potential for this.

10. **Amendments to the ROWIP and the Statement of Actions.**

The statutory guidance developed for ROWIPs states that annual progress reports should highlight any changes to the statement of actions that have occurred in the previous year. Whilst this document has already reported on completed and ongoing actions it is important to highlight actions that are no longer deliverable.

In 2008/2009 it was announced that the Discovering Lost Ways Project (DLW) was being withdrawn. This was a national project run by Natural England. The project had the potential to add routes and increase connectivity to the Rights of Way network.

Whilst the Merseyside Rowip Partners will continue to strive to add routes and increase connectivity to the Rights of Way network, there are a number of actions within the ROWIPs statement of actions that were directly linked to the DLW project which can no longer be achieved.

These include:

Action	Task
Prov2	Identify key routes from the DLW project and place them on the Definitive Map Modification Order list.
Prov3	Add routes from the DLW process to the Definitive map and statements.
Prov4	Undertake necessary development work on routes created through the DLW project.

11. **Year 2 Delivery**

The Year 2 delivery programme will shortly be developed. It will incorporate the following:

- Actions from the Year 1 delivery programme that could not be achieved.
- Actions from the ROWIP documents statement of actions.
- Actions that have arisen from the day to day management of the Rights of Way Network in 2008/2009.

This new programme will be approved by the Merseyside Transport Plan Partnership and be made available for public consumption. Its progress will be monitored through quarterly reports and a subsequent annual progress report will be prepared.

12. **Contact Details for Merseyside Rights of Way Officers**

For further information relating to any aspects of the ROWIP please contact the relevant Local Authority Rights of Way Officer.

Merseyside District	Rights of Way Officer	Contact Telephone	Email Address
Knowsley	Mr Bernard Maloney	0151 443 2289	bernie.maloney@knowsley.gov.uk
Liverpool	Mr Mike Cassidy	0151 233 5230	michael.cassidy@liverpool.gov.uk
Sefton	Mrs Val Hough	0151 934 4206	val.hough@technical.sefton.gov.uk
St Helens	Mr James Widdop	07144 456 652	jameswiddop@sthelens.gov.uk
Wirral	Mr Robin Tutchings	0151 606 2480	robintutchings@wirral.gov.uk

This report is available on the Local Transport Plan website:
www.transportmerseyside.org

Local Transport Plan Partnership



Knowsl@y Council



The City of Liverpool



St. Helens Council

Sefton Council 

 **WIRRAL**