

2. Context and Scope of Rights of Way Improvement Plans



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2.1. The duty to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Birmingham City Council (BCC) is required to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) covering the whole city. In drawing up this plan, BCC must assess the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public in terms of:



- opportunities for exercise and other open-air recreation;
- accessibility of routes for the blind or partially sighted and people with mobility problems; and

- any other matters the Secretary of State may decide are necessary.

This plan includes a statement of proposed actions for the city and every local constituency, about managing local rights of way and for securing an improved network based on the assessments that have been made.

The plan will be reviewed within ten years of this publication, when further assessments will be made to ensure that the proposed actions are still relevant to Birmingham or to find out if amendments are needed.

2.2. Relationship to other plans

Birmingham City Council has a number of other plans and strategies to deliver its targets on healthy living, leisure, recreation, sport, tourism and transport as well as its community strategies. There are also a number of redevelopments across the city, creating opportunities for improvements, as well as proposals for local-centre improvements, some of which promote redevelopment and refurbishment of areas.

The RoWIP can help deliver these plans and strategies by providing local access for people of all abilities, and by creating and promoting opportunities for walking and cycling.

The desired outcome will be increased activity, improved health and, if incorporated into our daily routine, reduced local congestion and improved air quality.

The RoWIP should in turn influence any revisions of these plans and strategies to encourage a co-ordinated and integrated approach to delivering relevant targets.

2.3. Other duties and responsibilities

The RoWIP will help to ensure continuous improvement, taking into account economy, efficiency and effectiveness of any future plans. In creating the RoWIP, we have consulted the public, as they will benefit from an improved rights of way network.

This document will be used to help the Council decide whether or not to confirm and publish unopposed orders to create, extinguish or divert public rights of way. (Opposed orders are required to be referred to the Secretary of State for determination).

2.4. Monitoring

BCC will monitor the progress of implementing the actions of this plan. The Secretary of State may publish more regulations, requiring BCC to publish reports on how well it is doing, in preparing the RoWIP and in implementing this plan.