

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

2nd December 2022

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Planning Division, Derby City Council

General Rights of Way Service

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The maintenance service is looking to add paths to its online complaints system on the Rights of way - maintenance and enforcement web page. This is being investigated but the public can contact the service directly by phone and email.

Definitive map and path orders

As stated in previous reports, work continues to be carried out towards the production of the legal event modification orders that are required to bring the definitive map areas covering Derby up to date. The Council is also currently processing public path orders and definitive map modification orders.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

The City and County RoWIP Joint Subgroup met in September. It was recognised that the actions within the Statement of Actions of Derbyshire County Council's and Derby City Council's RoWIPs required revision because of the changes that have occurred since they were produced in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Another meeting for the discussion of revised actions is planned for the coming weeks.

Derwent Valley Bridleway/Cycleway.

The proposed 1.92 km bridleway scheme will link Haslams Lane, Derby and Ford Lane, Little Eaton. Officers at the City Council now have authority to make the necessary orders for the scheme, subject to the consent of Derbyshire County Council and the views of Erewash District Council. That consent is now being sought.

Allestree Hall and Park

It was reported in July that the Council's sale of Allestree Hall to a wedding venue company had fallen through. The Council is exploring other options for the Hall's future. Updates will be given when more news is available.

Derby Riverboat

Members requested at the September meeting whether the Riverboat was fully accessible. The excerpt below is taken from the Visit Derby site FAQs.

The boat itself is fully accessible, however until a permanent boarding platform can be installed the boat trips will be only accessible to customers who are able to use a pool style ladder onto the boat.

Temporary footbridge opens, re-linking Darley Village and the Mills



Samuel Jones and his Mum on Walter's Walkway after it opened

On Thursday 6 October, residents and businesses alike rejoiced as the new temporary footbridge across the River Derwent in Darley Abbey was officially opened.

Young resident and local school pupil, Samuel Jones was the first to cross the bridge as a competition winner after he came up with the name 'Walter's Walkway' for the new bridge. After unveiling the nameplate, Samuel and his mum made the inaugural journey over the bridge to applause and cheers from residents and local businesses.

The 46-meter-long footbridge was lifted into place via a 500 tonne capacity crane on Friday 23 September.

The footbridge opening marks a major step forward in keeping two areas of the city linked after the existing bridge was closed to all traffic in May this year. A series of inspections by Engineers showed that the bridge was unsafe, and it was closed.

The current footbridge is expected to be in place for the next 12 months while a permanent solution is developed by Council Officers.

From the Council Newsroom (with updates from Ray Brown)

Derby City Council Budget Pressures

At the end of July, the Council released figures showing a predicted overspend of £10.8 million, fuelled by a 'perfect storm' of rising inflation plus increases in fuel, energy and other costs. This was against a background of increasing demand for services.

Since then, the economic situation nationally has become more uncertain with no guarantee about what funding the Government will make available for Councils. This won't be confirmed until late December.

Within the Council, colleagues have been working hard to identify areas where spending can be reduced during this financial year, including vacancy management, which will see more vacant staff posts not being filled, and tightening our spending controls.

While £9.8 million of savings have been identified so far, demand for services has continued to rise meaning the predicted overspend for this financial year has risen to £12.8 in the second quarter. This could mean that savings will need to be identified this year that equal the savings made by the Council in the last four years combined if Government does not step in to support struggling councils across the country.

The Council is working up a variety of budget proposals for 2023/2024, which could see some of its services changing significantly. These will be shared with residents as part of the public consultation in late December.

Local Government Boundary Commission has submitted its recommendations for Derby

Derby's wards are changing after new proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) were announced. The proposals mean that some residents will be voting in different wards and for different councillors at the next elections in May 2023.

The LGBC are an independent body established to carry out reviews of local government boundaries and make sure they're fit for purpose. The new recommendations make sure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters, and that wards reflect community ties and identities.

Their Electoral Review of Derby City Council suggests that the Council should continue to be made up of 51 councillors, with several changes to the ward structure

There will be 18 wards - one more than Derby currently has. The boundaries for 13 wards will change, with the other five remaining the same. Three of the wards will have two councillors and 15 wards will have three.

Devolution deal for the East Midlands

A public consultation about devolution for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire began Monday 14 November and will end on Monday 9 January 2023. It is an opportunity for everyone in the area to have their say about devolution proposals. It is open to residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the region.

The leaders of the four councils signed up to work on a devolution deal on 30 August this year at an event at Rolls Royce in Derby, following an announcement from Government that a package of new powers and funding, worth £1.14 billion, were available for the area.

Since August, the councils have been working on agreeing a more detailed proposal for consultation, which includes more information about how devolution would work in our area. The four councils agreed to go ahead with a public consultation as the next step in the process, so everyone has the chance to give their views on the proposal.

Recommendation

To note this report.