

## **Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**

8 March 2024

### **Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

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

#### **Rights of Way Service**

The Rights of Way Service sits within the Planning Division, which in turn sits within the City Growth and Vibrancy department.

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The Highways Maintenance Service sits within the Sustainability department.

#### **Finances**

All rights of way functions, except for maintenance, are funded using the Spatial Planning group budget. There is no specific fixed sum for rights of way work.

#### **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)**

Officers have been gathering information on how best to carry out the network and stakeholder assessments required for the next ROWIPs. A meeting with the ROWIP subgroup to discuss how to take the City and County improvement plans forward is due to take place in the coming weeks.

## **Path Schemes**

### **Derby Riverside Path (National Cycle Network (NCN) 6) repairs**

Work continues on the surface repair scheme for the cross-boundary section of the Derby Riverside Path, running between Raynesway and Borrowash, and should be completed this month.

### **Derwent Valley Bridleway**

Derwent Valley Bridleway scheme is dependent on the government's approval of the A38 Derby Junctions scheme. The Stop the A38 Expansion Group has challenged the scheme's' Development Consent Order in the High Court. The Secretary of State can't give the final approval for the funding of the road junctions scheme and, in turn, the bridleway, until this court case has been resolved.

## **Other updates**

### **Allestree Hall**

There are no further updates on the sale of Allestree Hall. An update about Allestree Park is reported below.

### **Defra**

There has been no news at the time of writing about the proposed Defra/Natural England support officer for Local Access Forums.

## From the Council's Newsroom (with updates from Ray Brown)

### Have your say to shape the Derby of the Future



The consultation is open until Monday 25 March.

A new consultation has launched to help [shape Derby's new Local Plan](#).

Citizens have until Monday 25 March 2024 to share what matters to them and help shape what the Derby of the future could look like.

Derby's population is growing, the way we work and shop is changing, and we are becoming more aware of environmental issues like climate change. The Government has also increased the number of new homes we need to plan for in Derby.

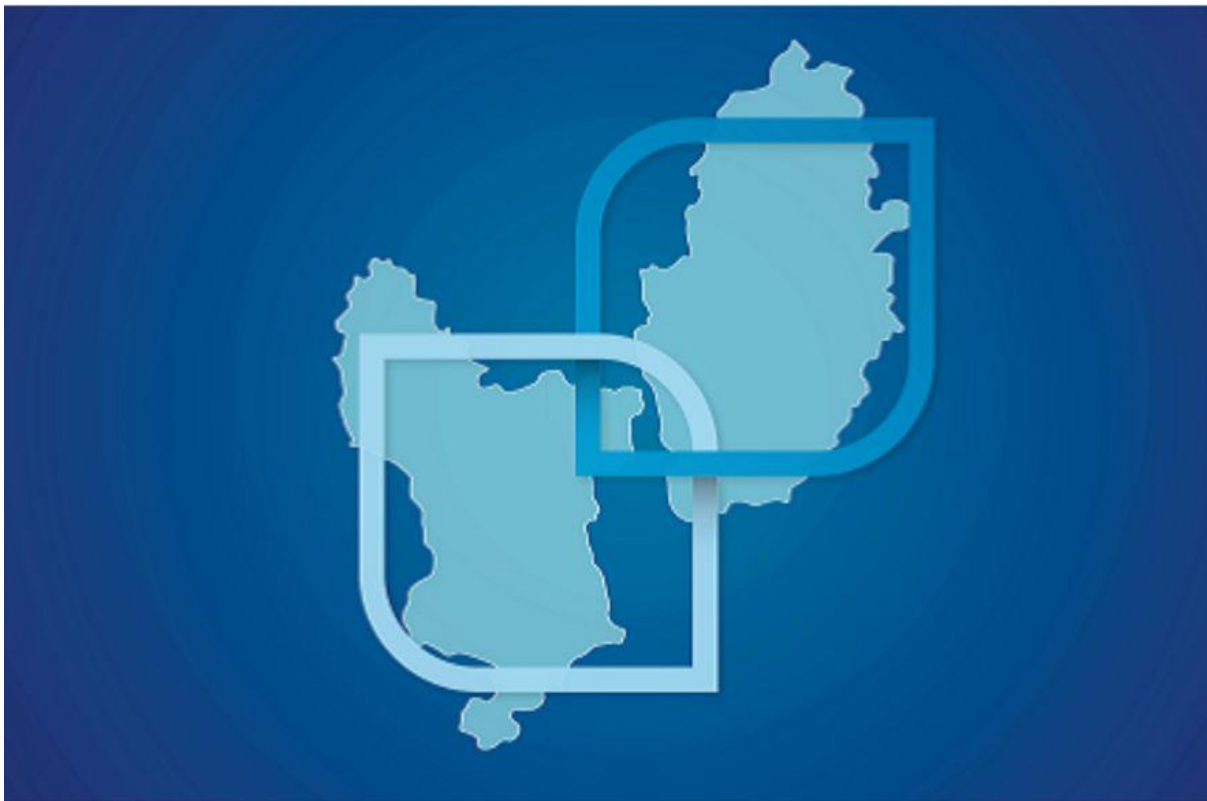
All this means we need to build more homes and workplaces and ensure people can access the facilities they need in a sustainable and healthy way.

The Local Plan will set out the vision for future development in the city, guiding decisions on new development proposals. As part of developing the Local Plan we need to demonstrate that enough land has been identified to deliver the new homes, workplaces and supporting infrastructure that the city needs.

Derby citizens can now shape how we respond to these challenges by taking part in our Local Plan consultation.

This initial consultation will help inform what goes into the main proposals, which will go out for separate consultation at a later date.

## **Councils give green light to £4 billion East Midlands devolution deal**



EMCCA is set to bring in around £4 billion of funding for the region.

On Thursday 7 December, Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council each approved plans to create the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

EMCCA is set to bring in around £4 billion of funding for the region, alongside devolved powers for transport, skills and adult education, housing, the environment and economic development.

## **East Midlands Combined County Authority Mayoral Election**

On Thursday 2 May 2024, residents in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham will vote for the first ever Mayor for the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

The EMCCA has been made possible because of a devolution deal between the Government and the four upper tier councils of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham. The deal includes functions and funding worth £1.14 billion, and it means that decisions about investment in our areas, which are currently taken by central government, will be made locally.

As part of the devolution deal, the new Combined County Authority must have a directly elected mayor. The Government believes a Mayor means clearer accountability over local powers, functions and funding. A key part of the role is to act as an advocate and global ambassador for the area and the 2.2 million residents who live here.

The Mayor leads the Combined County Authority and will work with local councils, business representatives and stakeholders to maximise its potential as a place to live, visit, work and do business – focusing on areas like transport, housing, regeneration, employment and skills, economic investment and the net-zero ambition.

The Mayor will have the powers and responsibilities to make decisions across the whole EMCCA area. However, local authorities will still exist as individual councils providing local services.

The Mayor's term of office will run for four years.

More information about the Combined County Authority, the role of the Mayor, and the upcoming elections can be found at [www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk)

## Council lobbies Government for funding to help replace Darley Abbey Toll Bridge



The temporary Walter's Walkway at Darley Abbey

Derby City Council is appealing to the Government for funding to help secure a new bridge across the river at Darley Abbey.

The Toll Bridge crosses the Derwent at the historic Darley Abbey Mills and closed in May 2022, after an inspection found it was in a dangerous condition. Although it is not owned by the Council, the Council has provided [a temporary bridge](#) to maintain access for walkers and cyclists since October 2022.

Known as Walter's Walkway, the temporary bridge sits above the original structure and is a vital link between Darley Abbey and the Darley Abbey Mills business area, Darley Park, and the Haslams Lane area, which is at risk of flooding.

However there is currently no access for vehicles and the bridge remains unusable. Its ownership is a complex issue, but the importance of the link for the local community prompted Cabinet to approve the temporary bridge using powers under the Localism Act 2011.

With the local Government sector facing unprecedented financial challenges, Derby City Council does not have the capital funding available to fund a permanent replacement which would restore full access for the community.

Now the Leader of the Council, Councillor Baggy Shanker, and Councillor Carmel Swan, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainability, have written a letter to Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, and Lucy Frazer, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, requesting urgent funding to start work on the project.

This would kickstart a feasibility study, detailed design work and costings for a new bridge to replace the unsafe one.

## **Rewilding of Allestree Park awarded £1.1 million to deliver community's vision**



Allestree Park in November 2021 (left) and summer 2023 (right)

As Allestree Park enters its third year of rewilding, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derby City Council have announced exciting plans for how the community would like to shape the park into a richer place for people and nature, and help tackle the effects of climate change over the next 12 months, and beyond.

In order to achieve the community's vision, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been successful in securing almost £1.1 million in funding over three years from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK.

A partnership between Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derby City Council and the University of Derby, the Community Rewilding of Allestree Park is the largest urban

rewilding project in the UK. It aims to support the delivery of an even more beautiful and accessible place for people of Derby and surrounding areas to visit, where wildlife will flourish even more and species will return.

The nature-rich park will store more carbon, directly helping with the climate and nature crisis. The project hopes to inspire people, communities and businesses right across the city and Derbyshire to rewild their own spaces and take steps to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Throughout the life of the project, the partners have been having conversations with a wealth of people, from climate, wildlife, healthcare and accessibility experts to local schools and youth groups, Derby residents, recreational groups and visitors.

Through these conversations, it is clear that community rewilding means different things to different people, but that there are several things that most people want to see. These common goals will form the focus for the project activity this year, including a jam-packed calendar of initiatives and events.

Among the ideas fed back, people have said that they want to see the light touch interventions continue to improve the site for nature, such as improving the diversity of wildflowers and letting grasslands grow. They also want more community involvement projects, including monitoring changes and volunteering to reintroduce mini-but-mighty species, such as dung beetles.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes, will be used to support people to take these positive actions for nature and to deliver community and nature benefits in Allestree Park and across Derby City.



## Derby Racecourse Hub announces kick-off



Image of outdoor football pitches at Derby Racecourse Hub

Derby Racecourse Hub £11.9 million facility at Derby Racecourse has opened to the public. The operators are Leisure United.

The development aims to provide high-quality, sustainable facilities for year-round pitch use, ensuring a lasting future for grassroots football.

This state-of-the-art facility is set to breathe new life into the Racecourse, offering three new full-size 3G football turf pitches (FTP), and the refurbishment of the existing FTP. The community building features a community café, additional community meeting spaces, increased parking spaces, and improved entry and exit points to the site. The Racecourse Park has also seen improvements, featuring a recently added play area, basketball court, and outdoor gym.

Jointly funded by Derby City Council and the Premier League, The FA, and the Government's Football Foundation, this project shows collaborative working to improve community sports infrastructure.

### Recommendation

To note this report.