

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

**22 September 2023**

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

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

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

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

#### **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 Joint RoWIP Subgroup met on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Another meeting is proposed to discuss progress.

#### **New Local Transport Plan and LAFs**

It is proposed to combine the four current local transport plans within the East Midlands Combined Authority area, into a single integrated plan. DADLAF is on the list of stakeholders, although the appropriate process for stakeholder input/consultation is yet to be finalised.

## Highways Schemes

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

Work has begun on the surface repair scheme for the cross boundary section of the Derby Riverside Path running between Raynesway and Borrowwash. Following concerns from the local community and path user groups, the Council is carrying out further consultation to discuss some aspects of the scheme.

### Derwent Valley Bridleway

The Secretary of State for Transport redetermined and approved the A38 Derby Junctions Development Consent Order on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023, which is a major step towards the road junctions scheme going ahead. The Secretary of State still has to give the final approval for the funding of the road junctions scheme. The City Council and Derbyshire County Council have been informed by National Highways that the proposed Derwent Valley Bridleway is dependent on the road junctions scheme being given the go ahead, so we are awaiting the outcome.

### New proposals to maintain access to Darley Abbey Mills



The bridge was installed in 2022 on a hire basis.

Derby City Council is looking at proposals to keep bridge access to Darley Abbey Mills open. Cabinet will consider purchasing the temporary Walter's Walkway, when it meets next week.

The prefabricated bridge was installed on a hire basis when the [Darley Abbey Toll Bridge was closed in 2022](#). It was expected to be in place for 12 months, but more time is needed to find a long-term solution.

The original hire arrangement was funded by £500,000 of revenue reserves, however only £120,000 remains which will be exhausted by Autumn 2024 and continued hire would create an annual, unfunded revenue pressure of £111,000.

Purchasing the temporary structure would be achieved with £266,000 of existing Highways and Transport programme funding and would be financially better than continuing the current hire arrangement.

On top of the initial purchase would be ongoing costs of inspections and maintenance for five years, totalling £221,000 and paid for by the remaining £120,000 of the original funding. This leaves just £44,000 of revenue pressure a year from 2026/27.

The prefabricated bridge, named Walter's Walkway [following a naming competition](#), was installed after the existing Darley Abbey Toll Bridge was closed when engineers deemed it unsafe.

The original bridge is not owned by the Council, but the importance of the link for the local community prompted Cabinet to approve the installation of the Walkway using powers under the Localism Act 2011.

Re-establishing this connection for pedestrians and cyclists is providing time to consider and develop a medium-term solution. Uncertainties over ownership, and financial pressures affecting a permanent solution, have led officers to investigate the option to purchase the temporary Walter's Walkway.

### **St Peters Street (The Spot), Babington Lane and Gower Street Project**

This major project, located in the city centre, aims to improve connectivity and facilities along some of the city centre's most important streets. When completed, the streets will be more user friendly to pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people. The works will be completed in the coming weeks. The Council made a joint bid with Nottingham City Council from the DfT's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) and Active Travel Fund (ATF) to fund the project.



## Derby Bus Service Improvement Plan

The Derby Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) can be viewed on the Council's website. The BSIP currently covers the area within the city boundary but states that in future, the plan will also cover the new housing developments in the neighbouring districts, adjacent to the city boundary.

[bus-service-improvement-plan-b-2022.pdf \(derby.gov.uk\)](https://www.derby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/bus-service-improvement-plan-b-2022.pdf)

## Other News

### Community rewilding starts to bloom at Allestree Park



Allestree Park in November 2021 (left) and today (right)

As Allestree Park entered its second summer of rewilding, the changes were really starting to show. Mowed footways cut through swathes of longer grass, creating more space for wildflowers which in turn are attracting bees, butterflies and birds.

People have been sharing sightings of swallows, comma butterflies and green woodpecker chicks as well as telling us about the calm and happiness they get from these wonderful natural spaces.

The Allestree Park rewilding project involves Derby City Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the University of Derby. It's the largest urban rewilding project in Britain, so has national significance as well as being important to the city.

Since plans for the project were first approved by the Council's cabinet in November 2021, there has been minimum intervention with the natural landscape. With the exception of the grass footways and a traditional area for picnics and recreation near the lake, it's now the third season where the grass has been allowed to grow naturally.

There have been no public updates given about the future of Allestree Hall.

### **Derby Parks awarded Green Flag status as they are named among best in UK**



Alvaston Park is one of six Derby parks to be recognised

Six of Derby's parks have received a 2023 Green Flag Award in recognition of their high standard. The accreditation is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Receiving the award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that cares for Derby's green spaces to ensure everyone can enjoy them.

The parks that have retained their Green Flag Award status are:

- [Alvaston Park \(Opens in new tab\)](#)
- [Chaddesden Park \(Opens in new tab\)](#)
- [Darley Park](#)
- [Markeaton Park \(Opens in new tab\)](#)
- [Sunnydale Park Local Nature Reserve \(Opens in new tab\)](#)
- [Derby Arboretum \(Opens in new tab\)](#)

The scheme also includes the Green Flag Community Award, which recognises excellence at sites managed by community groups and volunteers. In Derby, eight sites have received the award.

These are:

- Ashbourne Road Allotments
- Chaddesden Wood Local Nature Reserve
- Chellaston Brickworks Local Nature Reserve
- Darley and Nutwood Local Nature Reserve
- Little Chester Allotments
- Hydrangea Derby
- Markeaton Walled Garden
- Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve

For the third time, Derby Arboretum has been awarded Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.

## **Changing Places Toilets**

Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability - or their carers. Inadequate, inaccessible facilities can create barriers to people with disabilities getting out and about.

People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by Changing Places toilets.

Derby Arena has a Changing Places toilets, providing enough space for disabled people and their carers, and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist.

**[View on the Changing Places website](#)**





### The Changing places facility at Derby Arena provides:

- A safe, large space of approximately 22m<sup>2</sup>
- Height adjustable changing bench (adult sized)
- Hoist – ceiling system
- Peninsular toilet with grab rails
- Shower
- Height adjustable washbasin
- Emergency alarm
- Non slip flooring
- Accessible with a radar key, always locked off & checked throughout the day by Arena staff

#### Access to the Changing Places toilet

A radar key is available at reception & during an event additional key holders are located at Entrance C

Available during the [Arena general opening times](#). For use during events please check event times with the venue.

#### Where are the Changing Places facilities?

Our changing places facility is located on the ground floor of the Arena, for day to day accessibility this can either be through the infield area & for event accessibility Entrance C can be used for ease.

Disabled parking is allocated near to Entrance C & there is ample parking onsite.

For further information or advice, please contact [derbyarena@derby.gov.uk](mailto:derbyarena@derby.gov.uk) or call 01332 640011.

There are several Changing Places toilets across Derby.

The toilets can be found at the Council House, the Derbion Shopping Centre, Derby Arena, Elvaston Castle Country Park, the Museum of Making and the Odeon at Meteor Centre.

### **Local stakeholders meet with council bosses to discuss East Midlands devolution plans**



Senior officers from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham Councils provided updates to key stakeholders

Local leaders from a range of sectors came together this month to discuss the progress of East Midlands devolution, as plans to give the region extra powers and funding gather pace and momentum.

The event, held on Friday 18 August, saw Chief Executives at Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City



Council provide updates on key elements of the region’s proposed devolution deal, including transport, skills and adult education, housing, and net-zero.

Stakeholders representing a broad range of interests across the region – including business, universities and colleges, and emergency services – were given the opportunity to put questions to senior officers at the four councils.

The event was held ahead of several major devolution milestones over the coming months. For the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) to come into existence, new legislation is required from the Government, which is anticipated to be in place before the end of the year.

Detailed devolution proposals would then be sent to the Government for approval, meaning that EMCCA could be a reality from spring 2024, with the first ever election for a regional mayor – covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Nottingham – taking place in May 2024.

### **'Take a Peak' at why Derby is a great short break destination**



Irongate in Derby (Photo: Visit Derby)

A new campaign is being launched to encourage visitors to choose Derby for a short break.

Visit Peak District, Derbyshire and Derby, the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region, launches its 'Take a Peak' campaign on Saturday 1 July.

Supported by UK Shared Prosperity funding and Derby City Council, the £50K summer campaign showcases the many great, surprising things to see and do in the city.

Primarily targeting the buzz seeker audience, six key themes are promoted as drivers for booking a short break. These include experiences, shopping, food and drink, culture, events and accommodation.

The campaign is being featured on the newly-refreshed Visit Derby website, the official tourism website for the city of Derby. The site has been redesigned with improved functionality and has lots of inspirational ideas for things to see and do in the city and surrounding areas, including what's on, where to eat and drink and experiences.

### **Recommendation**

To note this report.