

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

12 September 2025

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Update

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

Rights of Way Service Update

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 City Sustainability department. It can be confirmed that Highways Maintenance is responsible for the maintenance and repair of seating within the maintainable highway. If any seating or other highway infrastructure requires cleaning, then the Street Cleansing unit will normally carry out that task.

All the functions sit within the Place strategic department.

Finances

All rights of way functions, except for maintenance, are funded using the Planning division budget. There is no specific fixed sum allocated for rights of way work. The Planning division has been asked to find savings from its budget in line with a general request across the Council to find savings. More details can be found in the Council's Newsroom section.

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.

Status of definitive map modification order applications and public path order applications for 2025

Applications for definitive map modification orders received.

0

Applications for definitive map modification orders determined.

0

Applications for definitive map modification orders undetermined

2 received in the Sinfin Moor Lane area in 2022 (under investigation).

4 received in the Allestree Hall/Park area in 2023 (under investigation)

Applications for public path orders received.

0

Applications for public path orders determined.

1 – Infinity Park, Sinfin Moor - order made and confirmed

Applications for public path orders to be determined.

1 - Friar Gate Goods Yard. Note that the proposed Mick Mack Cycle Route is intended to link from Uttoxeter New Road in an easterly direction to the Friar Gate Goods Yard development site. The route is protected until 2030.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The service has the aim of carrying out its consultation exercise in late 2025 or early 2026. These public consultations are subject to resources, which is why they have been delayed. An update will be given during the subgroup updates item on the agenda.

Allestree Hall

Allestree Hall is in the process of being sold to property developer Staton Young for use as a wedding venue. Proposals for the development are expected to be submitted this year. The developer is aware of the DMMO applications to record some existing paths near the hall as public footpaths. Members have requested that a letter be sent to the City Council ensuring that some public access is maintained around the hall.

Derwent Valley Bridleway

The A38 Road Junctions scheme has been approved by the Secretary of State for Transport following the conclusion of the Government's Spending Review but it's still uncertain whether there will be any changes to the original proposed scheme. For this reason, the Council is still exploring alternative ways to fund the proposed section of bridleway between Derby and Little Eaton.

East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) News

Contact with LAFs

Nottingham City LAF had attend Claire Ward as guest speaker before she was appointed EMCCA Mayor. Alan Simpson, Sustainable Travel Ambassador for the East Midlands, will be attending their October meeting. They also had Adrian Hill from Active Travel England attend their April meeting.

Defra News

The government announced last December that it intends to repeal the 2031 cut-off date for recording historic public rights of way. The government stated that "under the changes, local authorities will now have the required time to assess whether paths meet the requirements to be added to the "definitive map".

There has been no news of any proposed dates for the implementation of the changes to rights of way legislation that were introduced by The Deregulation Act 2015.

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

News (with updates from Ray Brown)

Major improvements completed on key city route

Published: 6 June 2025



Group of people stood on a shared use path. Some of them are holding bikes. They are in front of a road junction with a large Asda sign.

Cllr Carmel Swan with representatives from Derby City Council and Balfour Beatty

Road users in Derby will see significant improvements following the completion of a major upgrade scheme along Derby Road and Nottingham Road through Spondon and Chaddesden.

Part of the Transforming Cities programme, these works have delivered enhanced sustainable transport infrastructure and a full road resurfacing.

Both roads have been given a makeover, while new infrastructure has been added to make active travel, such as walking and cycling easier. This includes new cycle lanes and improved pedestrian crossings.

Cyclists will enjoy a safer and more convenient journey thanks to new shared use and segregated cycle lanes between the Spondon Island and the Chaddesden Park Road junction.

Pedestrians will find it easier to move along the route thanks to new pedestrian crossings installed at Spondon Island and the entrance to Asda. These crossings are also synchronised to allow more efficient journeys and provide priority to buses, meaning less congestion and improved air quality.

These works, delivered by Balfour Beatty, are part of Nottingham and Derby's Transforming Cities programme to create more sustainable, better-connected cities.

Working in partnership, the two authorities secured £161 million to invest in local transport infrastructure that will improve sustainable transport, support growth, and encourage more low carbon journeys.

Victoria and Albert Street completion concludes major highway and transport upgrades



Among the improvements are new cycle lanes and planters.

One of Derby City Centre's key routes has completed a major overhaul, connecting key city centre sites like Becketwell Live, The Condor apartment complex and Derby Market Hall.

The transport improvements - which will enhance appearance, improve air quality, and encourage more sustainable journeys - concluded with the resurfacing of Corporation Street, Victoria Street and Albert Street

Among the improvements are wider footpaths and a new segregated cycle lane, making it much easier for residents and visitors to choose low-emission, active travel options to move through the heart of the city centre.

Improved bus bays, coupled with the segregated cycle lane and a permanent one-way system will allow for improved traffic flow and lower emissions, benefitting the health of visitors and residents alike. Bus users will also benefit from new street lighting around bus stops, making them a safer, more comfortable place to wait.

New living roof bus shelters will be installed, making the area more visually appealing and providing food sources and habitats for a wide variety of pollinating insects.

On top of the green bus shelters, the area will also benefit from an extensive greening programme, with new planters being installed to give a fresh, vibrant feel to this vital city centre route. The public realm enhancements will also complement the proposed improvements on Osnabruck Square.

A number of benches have been incorporated into these new planters, giving visitors a place to sit and enjoy a greener city centre.

The completion of this scheme also marks the end of Transforming Cities programme in Derby, after Derby and Nottingham City Councils secured £161m from the Government's Transforming Cities Fund. This project has seen improvements made to local transport infrastructure around the city. improving sustainable transport, supporting growth and encouraging more low carbon journeys.

Recommendation

To note this report.