

RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE: REVIEW OF THE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR HILLINGDON'S FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Cabinet Members	Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolios	Planning, Transportation and Recycling Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact	Ainsley Gilbert, Administration
Papers with report	Committee's Review Report

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To receive the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee's report providing recommendations which seek to help improve Hillingdon's Footpaths and Bridleways.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Putting our Residents First: <i>Our Natural Environment; Our People</i> This report contributes to the Council's priority of improving our natural and built environment.
Financial Cost	No direct costs are associated with the recommendations.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet welcomes the report from the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee and agrees its recommendations to further enhance the Borough's Footpaths and Bridleways as set out below:

- 1) That Cabinet endorse the positive witness feedback about the quality of the Borough's footpaths and bridleways, compared to other areas, along with how well the service is being delivered.
- 2) Asks officers to formalise the monthly cleaning schedules of adopted footways.
- 3) Agrees to the addition of a new category to the Onyx Customer Relations Management system for the recording of problems with rights of way, and permissive routes.
- 4) Notes that a representative of the Hillingdon Equestrian Advisory Committee (HEAC) will be invited to attend the Yeading Valley Working Party, and that officers will provide meeting rooms to HEAC as and when they consider it to be appropriate.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendations are aimed at allowing Cabinet to take forward the Policy Overview Committee's recommendations made in the final report.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject or amend the Committee's recommendations.

Supporting Information

Hillingdon is fortunate to have a large number of Footpaths and Bridleways, which are valued by residents both as ways of getting about, and as leisure facilities. The Borough manages 69 miles of right of way, as well as a similarly vast network of permissive paths and bridleways. These routes spread right across the Borough, with routes passing through a diverse range of areas, from the tranquil Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve, to the bustle of Uxbridge town centre.

The aim of the Committee's review was to assess the effectiveness of, and identify potential improvements which could be made to the current cleaning and maintenance regime for Footpaths and Bridleways. The findings of the review are positive and it is hoped that the recommendations will allow the service, which residents already regard as being very good, to continue to be enhanced.

Implementation of Recommendations

Officers have discussed the Committee's recommendations with Cabinet Members and propose to implement them as follows, subject to Cabinet endorsement:

- 1) No action required. This recommendation is for Cabinet to endorse witnesses' comments, and does not require implementation by officers.
- 2) The Waste Service provides cleaning of adopted footways, on a weekly monthly or occasional basis. The monthly cleaning schedule is currently flexible and based around other work pressures, which might have led to footways not being cleaned. Officers will use their understanding of likely periods of high pressure to write a formal cleaning schedule for adopted footways which will ensure that they are cleaned on a regular basis. This schedule will be kept by solo road sweepers and mobile teams, using existing resources.
- 3) There was a lack of data available about Footpaths and Bridleways, and whilst the evidence available from other sources suggested that the service was very good, it was thought that better information was needed. Managers agreed that this would be useful to them. The Contact Centre have confirmed that a new category can be added to Onyx using existing resources, which will allow them to track resident queries relating to this.
- 4) This recommendation was made in order to improve coordination of the Council's work on Bridleways. Officers will invite a representative of HEAC to the Yeading Valley Working Party, and will liaise with HEAC about providing suitable venues for their meetings, as they without a dedicated facility for this.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All recommendations can be met using existing resources.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendations?

The Committee's recommendations will help the Council to continue to improve residents' experience of the Borough's footpaths and bridleways.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Committee took evidence from the Hillingdon Ramblers, the Hillingdon Equestrian Advisory Committee, and officers, as described in the attached report.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Financial Implication

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications set above, noting there are no direct costs associated with the recommendations contained therein.

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives Councils a general power of competence and enables Local Authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do. This provides the Council with the power to do anything which it considers is for the benefit of the authority, its area or person resident or present in its area.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL