

Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Date: 30 March 2015

Title: Report of the Rights of Way Sub-group

Author: Dave Parkin, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 0191 643 5316

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a report produced by the Environment Sub-committee's Rights of Way Sub Group.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider and approve the report and its recommendations and refer it to Cabinet for its consideration on 13 April 2015.

3. Details

- 3.1 As part of the Environment Sub-committee work programme for 2014/15, a presentation was given at its meeting held on 10 September 2014 covering two topics, namely public rights of way and the cycling strategy. It was agreed that separate sub-groups should be set up, the first covering Public Rights of Way and the second to look at the Cycling Strategy.
- 3.2 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) was selected because the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 created a cut off date by which those PRoWs which existed and were not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement would be extinguished and lost forever. North Tyneside Council as the Highway Authority has a statutory duty to record all PRoWs and to ensure that the public can make full use of PRoW network. Current estimates indicate that there are approximately 130 miles of PRoWs in North Tyneside which have not yet been recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. The Sub group also wanted to examine the systems in place to ensure that the rights of way in the area were properly maintained both now and in the future. It was considered that the Sub Group could make a positive contribution to the formulation of future plans or strategies and would allow for community involvement.
- 3.3 The remit of the Sub Group was to review the current situation in relation to the recording of Public rights of Way on the Definitive Map and Statement and to assess the implications of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and to examine the options for the maintenance and future maintenance of Public Rights of Way.
- 3.4 Members held a series of evidence gathering meetings with officers of the Authority, partner organisations and representatives of the rights of way user groups.

- 3.5 The findings and recommendations of the Sub Group can be found in the full report attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The report was submitted to the Environment Sub-committee on 11 March 2015 for endorsement and has been submitted to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its approval and then submission to Cabinet, in accordance with Part 4.3 Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Rules of Procedure in the Authority's Constitution.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Rights of Way Sub Group.