

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

DATE: 21 March 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment and Development

SUBJECT: Public Rights of Way Milestone Statement
Progress Report 2006/07

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the progress made with regards to the works detailed within the Council's Public Rights of Way Milestone Statement 2003 and that it is intended to circulate the report to update the consultees who responded to the Milestone Statement consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the progress made.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Executive Board at its meeting on 8th January 2004 approved Halton's first Milestone Statement.

3.2 The Milestone Statement outlined Halton's position with regards to the three national targets for public rights of way. These are based on public rights of way being, Legally Defined, Properly Maintained and Well Publicised.

3.3 The three national targets were further broken down into component tasks and the Milestone Statement outlined Halton's position with regards to these tasks and identified the works required in order that they may be completed for Halton to achieve these targets.

3.4 The Milestone Statement has been used as a working document, which has provided a structured approach to these works and allowed good progress with the component tasks to be made.

3.5 A copy of the Draft Public Rights of Way Milestone Statement Progress Report 2006/07 is attached for information. It is intended to circulate the document to all interested parties to update them on Halton's progress to date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Not applicable

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

- 5.1.1 As previously reported the cost of carrying out improvements to the public rights of way network will continue to be met from Local Transport Plan funding, and the cost of maintaining the network from existing highway maintenance resources.
- 5.1.2 The cost of processing the necessary legal orders will also continue to be funded from existing revenue allocations.
- 5.1.3 The cost of producing a document for circulation will be met from within existing revenue resources.
- 5.1.4 It should be noted that the proposed reduction in core funding for Groundwork Mersey Valley (GMV) proposed for 2007/08 and the end of all core funding in 2009/10, will have a significant impact on the ability to address issues raised within the Milestone Statement. GMV currently assist with liaison, monitoring and maintenance of the RoW network, as well as securing additional funding to enable further improvements to be undertaken, over and above those facilitated by Halton's budgets. In future a number of these services will have to be procured from existing budgets, which will reduce our ability to maintain progress at current levels.

5.2 Sustainability/Social Inclusion Implications

- 5.2.1 Progressing the programme of tasks within the Milestone Statement to legally define, maintain and publicise the RoW network will ensure the continuing opportunity to encourage walking as a sustainable form of transport, which will be available to those who do not have access to a car.

5.3 Legal Implications

- 5.3.1 The Milestone Statement identified the work that was required to legally define the Public Rights of Way network. The Milestone Statement Progress Report 2006/07 advises on the progress made on these tasks to date, sets out the current position and identifies the outstanding tasks to be addressed.

5.4 Best Value Implications

- 5.4.1 The 'Milestone' approach to managing Public Rights of Way has assisted the authority in improving it's overall performance on BVPI 178.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Not applicable

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Not applicable

8.0 PUBLICITY

8.1 It is also proposed to make the original Milestone Statement along with this and any future progress reports available on the Council's website.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Borough Council Public Rights of Way Milestone Statement 2003	Rutland House	J Whelan