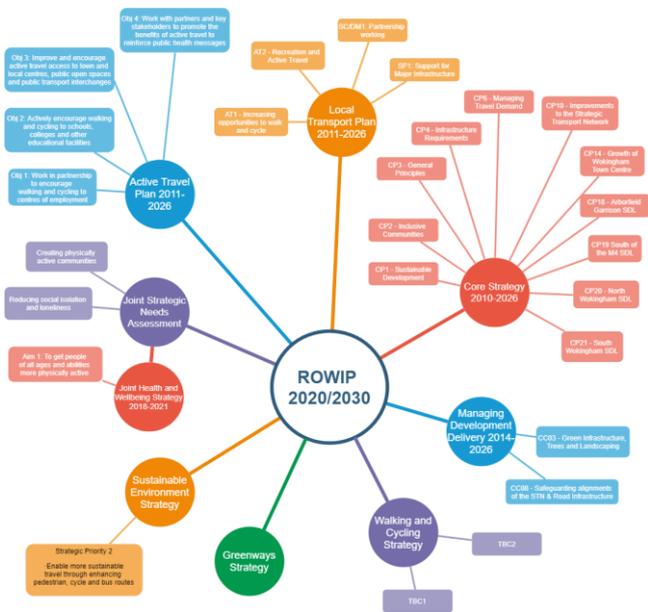


Wokingham Borough Council

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020

Consultation Draft



APPENDIX 1

Wokingham Borough Council overarching policy and strategy context

Introduction

Detailed below is a detailed analysis of the existing strategies and policies within Wokingham Borough Council that share common objectives with the ROWIP, and where the ROWIP can directly contribute to the delivery of each plan.

Core strategy 2010-2026

The core strategy sets out where development will occur within the borough up to 2026, taking into account the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. The following Core Strategy Policies share common objectives with the ROWIP:

CP1 - Sustainable Development

Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that:

- 1) Maintain or enhance the high quality of the environment;
- 10) Provide attractive, functional, accessible, safe, secure and adaptable Schemes;
- 11) Demonstrate how they support opportunities for reducing the need to travel, particularly by private car in line with CP6

CP2 – Inclusive Communities

To ensure that new development contributes to the provision of sustainable and inclusive communities (including the provision of community facilities) to meet long term needs, planning permission will be granted for proposals that address the requirements of:

- a) An ageing population, particularly in terms of housing, health and wellbeing;
- b) Children, young people and families, including the co-ordination of services to meet their needs;
- c) People with special needs, including those with a physical, sensory or learning disability or problems accessing services;

CP3 – General Principles for development

Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that:

- b) Provide a functional, accessible, safe, secure and adaptable scheme;
- e) Use the full potential of the site and contribute to the support for suitable complementary facilities and uses;
- h) Contribute towards the provision of an appropriate sustainable network of community facilities;

CP4 – Infrastructure Requirements

Planning permission will not be granted unless appropriate arrangements for the improvement or provision of infrastructure, services, community and other facilities required for the development taking account of the cumulative impact of schemes are agreed.

Arrangements for provision or improvement to the required standard will be secured by planning obligations or condition if appropriate.

CP6 – Managing Travel Demand

Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that:

- a) Provide for sustainable forms of transport to allow choice;
- b) Are located where there are or will be at the time of development choices in the mode of transport available and which minimise the distance people need to travel;
- c) Improve the existing infrastructure network, including road, rail and public transport, enhance facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, including provision for those with reduced mobility, and other users;
- e) Mitigate any adverse effects upon the local and strategic transport network that arise from the development proposed;
- f) Enhance road safety; and
- g) Do not cause highway problems or lead to traffic related environmental problems.

CP10 – Improvements to the Strategic Transport Network

Improvements to the Strategic Transport Network will be provided to ameliorate major environmental or safety problems and to support new development in partnership with other authorities. The improvements to the strategic transport network relevant to the ROWIP are:

- 20) Improvements to increase the use of bicycles, including cycle paths
- 21) Enhancements to footpath and cycle networks to improve access to services and facilities

CP14 – Growth and Renaissance of Wokingham Town Centre

Wokingham, as a major town centre in Berkshire is considered suitable for growth. Proposals should retain and enhance the historic market town character of Wokingham and maintain its position in the Berkshire retail hierarchy by:

- 4) Ensuring development cumulatively provides and maintains:
 - f) Improved pedestrian links between the station and the shopping streets;
 - g) Improved pedestrian and cycle links between the centre and other parts of the town;

CP18 – Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location

Within the area identified at Arborfield Garrison, a sustainable, well designed mixed use development will be delivered including:

- 8) Measures to improve accessibility by non-car transport modes along the A327, B3030, B3349 and B3430 corridors especially on the routes to Bracknell, Reading, Winnersh and Wokingham.

CP19 – South of the M4 Strategic Development Location

Within the areas identified South of the M4 motorway, a sustainable, well designed mixed use development will be delivered by 2026 including:

- 8) measures to improve accessibility by non-car transport modes along the A327 and A33 corridors and routes to the stations at Green Park and Winnersh Triangle

CP20 – North Wokingham Strategic Development Location

Within the area identified at North Wokingham, a sustainable, well designed mixed use development will be delivered by 2026 including:

- 8) Measures to improve accessibility by non-car transport modes along the A321 and A329 corridors; and
- 9) Measures to improve access by non car modes to Wokingham town centre (including the station interchange).

CP21 – South Wokingham Strategic Development Location

Within the area identified at South Wokingham, a sustainable, well designed mixed use development will be delivered by 2026 including:

- 8) Measures to improve accessibility by non-car transport modes along the A321 and A329 corridors; and
- 9) Measures to improve access by non car modes to Wokingham town centre (including the station interchange).

Managing Development Delivery Local Plan 2014-2026

The Managing Development Delivery Local Plan (MDD) adds extra detail to the policies within the Core Strategy. Together, these two documents set out how the Borough will develop up until 2026. The following MDD Policies share common objectives with the ROWIP:

Cross Cutting Policies

Policy CC03: Green Infrastructure, Trees and Landscaping

2. Development proposals should demonstrate how they have considered and achieved the following criteria within scheme proposals:
 - a) Provide new or protect and enhance the Borough's Green Infrastructure networks, including the need to mitigate potential impacts of new development
 - b) Promote accessibility, linkages and permeability between and within existing green corridors including public rights of way such as footpaths, cycleways and bridleways
 - c) Promote the integration of the scheme with any adjoining public open space or countryside

4. Development proposals within the River Valley areas shall improve or contribute toward:
 - a) The establishment of a Loddon/ Blackwater riverside footpath and bridleway, as defined on the Policies Map, to accommodate dual use
 - b) The establishment of a riverside footpath and cycleway to accommodate dual use along the Emm Brook

Policy CC08: Safeguarding alignments of the Strategic Transport Network & Road Infrastructure

Routes required for the improvement of the Strategic Transport Network and for other transport related schemes indicated on the Policies Map or listed in Appendix 3 of the MDD will be protected and safeguarded.

Local Transport Plan 2011-2026

The Local Transport Plan provides details of how the Council intends to improve transport and accessibility over the next fifteen years. It aims to address the transport and wider local challenges related to transport facing Wokingham Borough now and in the future. The vision of the plan is to provide a cost-effective, inclusive transport network that enhances the economic, social and environmental prospects of the Borough whilst promoting the safety, health and wellbeing of those that use it.

The following LTP goals share common objectives with the ROWIP:

Active Travel goals

Policy AT1: Increasing opportunities to walk and cycle

We will actively encourage integrating walking and cycling routes and facilities into key destinations including:

- Retail, Leisure and Social Facilities;
- Public Transport interchanges;
- Schools, Colleges and other educational facilities; and
- Employment Areas

2026 Target: At least one in five journeys to work is either on foot or by bicycle

Policy AT2: Recreation & Active travel

Improving access to public open space and country parks will help to encourage walking and cycling as a leisure activity.

Policy AT3: Active Travel for all

To provide walking and cycling opportunities that are inclusive of residents with mobility, visual and hearing impairments and other disabilities.

Smarter Choices and Demand Management goals

Policy SC/DM1: Partnership Working

The Council will work with public, private and voluntary partners to deliver improvements to the Borough's transport network.

Strategic Policy goals

Policy SP1: Support for Major Infrastructure

The Council will actively support development of suitable major transport projects that are necessary to support the future growth and success of the Borough.

Active Travel Plan 2011-2026

The Active Travel Plan supports the Local Transport Plan and seeks to increase the levels of active travel across Wokingham Borough and positively influence residents' dependence on private cars. The following Active Travel Plan actions share common objectives with the ROWIP:

Objective 1: We will work in partnership with businesses to encourage walking and cycling to centres of employment

- Establish an active travel network that supports the economy by reducing the effects of congestion
- Develop a comprehensive foot and cycle way network linking existing and new development business centres
- Use of section 106 agreements and/or Community Infrastructure Levy to support active travel to deliver a comprehensive network of linked walking and cycle ways

Objective 2: We will actively encourage walking and cycling to schools, colleges and other educational facilities

- Develop an active travel network that is attractive enough to ensure the young people continue to walk and cycle.
- Making small targeted infrastructure improvements into existing urban and rural areas to facilitate walking and cycling
- Link new cycling infrastructure delivered with housing to schools and the wider cycle and footway networks

Objective 3: Improve and encourage active travel access to town and local centres, public open spaces and public transport interchanges

- Delivery of new walking and cycling infrastructure linking SDL locations to employment, educational, health, residential and shopping locations

Objective 4: Work with partners and key stakeholders to promote the benefits of active travel to reinforce public health messages

- Develop and implement infrastructure and programmes that support more local active travel, as set out under other objectives in this action plan
- Making more use of minor rural roads and the current rights of way network for cyclists and walkers

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021

The JSNA is the means by which Wokingham Borough Council assess the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of the population in the Borough. It highlights the needs of the Borough and assesses how best to meeting these needs with a range of partners. The JSNA identified 3 priorities for the Borough:

1. Creating physically active communities
2. Reducing social isolation and loneliness
3. Narrowing the health inequalities gap

The actions identified in the ROWIP can in particular contribute towards the first and to a lesser degree the second of these objectives.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021 further defined actions against the priorities identified above. The following strategy aim shares common objectives with the ROWIP:

Aim 1: To get people of all ages and abilities more physically active by:

- Getting more people out and using green and blue spaces
- Promoting more active travel
- Encouraging more children to get at least one hour of physical activity every day

Sustainable Environment Strategy

The aim of the Sustainable Environment Strategy is to improve the quality of life, now and for future generations, by respecting our environment and protecting it from the impact of our activities and from growth. The strategy details the following aims:

- 1) ENGAGE - Raising awareness, fostering respect for our environment and changing behaviours
- 2) TAKE ACTION - Minimising waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3) PREPARE - Planning for the likely impacts of climate change and managing limited resources efficiently.

The following Strategic Priorities share common objectives with the ROWIP:

Strategic Priority 2 – TAKE ACTION - Minimising waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Businesses will increasingly need to find innovative ways to work, such as encouraging home working while the Council will work to increase the facilities for sustainable travel, such as, enhancing pedestrian, cycle and bus routes, improving public transport and promoting low carbon vehicles.

In the next 10 years, we plan to:

- Enable more sustainable travel through enhancing pedestrian, cycle and bus routes, improving public transport and promoting low carbon vehicles

We will have succeeded, if by 2020:

- Car travel per head has reduced