

Decision Record – Improvements to the Policy and Legal Framework for Public Rights of Way – a Public Consultation, Warwickshire County Council Response

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision:

Councillor Peter Butlin – Transport and Highways

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 3rd August 2012)

6 August 2012

Decision taken

I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, agree that Warwickshire County Council submits the document (as outlined at Appendix A) to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in response to its consultation document 'Improvements to the Policy and Legal Framework for Public Rights of Way – A Public Consultation'

Reasons for Decisions

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has issued a consultation document entitled "Improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way – a public consultation".

Defra is looking at ways which will speed up the processing of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs). The intention is to make the process for recording and making changes to the Definitive Map and Statement, the legal record of Public Rights of Way, simpler and more streamlined.

The Rights of Way Team have has commented on the proposals in the consultation (Appendix A attached) and would like to submit these to Defra. The response expresses some concerns that:

- 1) the suggestions that Defra has made, if implemented, would make the process more complex and potentially lead to anomalies in the recording of routes; and
- 2) that Defra is planning to move more work (and associated costs) onto the Local Authorities.

**Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions -
(set out below or attach officer report):**

Background Financial and Legal Implications
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Report Author: Marion Borman

Head of Service: Graeme Fitton

Strategic Director: Monica Fogarty

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Butlin

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

N/a

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Defra's 'Improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way. A public consultation' – May 2012

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

N/a

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

For Comment:

Graeme Fitton – Head of Service
Roger Newham – County Planner
Cllr P Butlin – Decision Maker
Ian Marriott – Legal

For information:

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Spokespersons (Councillors John Whitehouse, Ray Sweet and Chris Saint)