



## CAERPHILLY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

**SUBJECT: GWENT GREEN GRID PARTNERSHIP – GWENT GREEN CORRIDORS STRATEGIC ACCESS PLAN UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: REPORT BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Local Access Forum of developments under the access theme of the Gwent Green Grid.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan, often abbreviated to the Strategic Access Plan (SAP) is progressing through Lepus Consulting and the report provides an insight into its progress and contents.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The LAF is asked to note the contents of this report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To update the LAF on the development of the Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 As outlined at previous meetings of this LAF access forms one of the five main components of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP). Richard Garner, the Access Officer for the GGGP presented to this Forum at the February meeting where he gave an update on the commission to develop a Regional Access Strategy. Members may recall that the purpose of the Strategy was to provide some consistency in shared priorities within Gwent by identifying priority long distance routes and advising on infrastructure and furniture eg signage. Other benefits included a consistency in terms of the development of each authorities' Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP).

- 5.2 Lepus Consulting have been appointed to prepare the strategic access plan and this report provides an update as to progress. It is anticipated that the Plan can be reported to this LAF at the autumn meeting and thanks are given to those who have inputted to its development. The Strategy itself is split into two parts and is presented as two separate documents. The first being a completed desk top study providing background to legislation and policy, demographics, access and outdoor recreation provision which includes elements addressing availability, needs and promotion and then moves on to analyse key health intelligence data concluding with an analysis of strategic aims, priorities and objectives. This forms the backbone from which opportunities and limitations proposals are identified and includes useful information that could be used in a number of capacities. Included within this document is a section which analyses the content of existing RoWIPs for the Gwent LAs identifying possible additional considerations for the revised RoWIPs.
- 5.3 The broad 'template' put forward is wide ranging and expands on the current Caerphilly RoWIP. The main topics include Definitive Map and Statement, maintenance, objectives relating to specific user/non user groups, various non pedestrian users, disabled users, open access land, under represented groups, safe and responsible use, health and well being, promotion, environmental effects, education and training, economic benefits and partnerships with the opportunity to supplement locally with specific projects. The role of the LAF will be recognised in the RoWIP.
- 5.4 The second document, which is in draft form, identifies the Strategic Green Corridors and will be supplemented by investigations and identification of key links to these routes. Discussion over the identified routes are ongoing with 15 having initially been identified, 5 of which are either wholly or partly within CCBC. Some LAF members and officers have commented that some strategic links, notably to the west of the County borough are not identified in the draft and it is the intention to include 3 additional routes to address this. Other comments made include further emphasis being placed on bridleways with the possible inclusion of a regional route as part of the network. Both documents include a wide range of graphics.
- 5.5 It is the intention to present the SAP to the autumn meeting of this LAF however those members who are involved in the 'regional LAF' are likely to be invited to a meeting prior to this where the document will be discussed. It is anticipated that the Plan will be completed prior to the end of August and will be presented to each LAF within Gwent, where they are operational.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications directly associated with this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 This report was circulated to the consultees listed below. All comments received have been reflected in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

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Consultees:

M. Benjamin, LAF Chair

R. Tranter, CCBC, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

S. Harris, CCBC, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer

Cllr. C. Morgan, CCBC, Cabinet Member.

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M. Williams, CCBC, Director for Economy and Environment

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C. Harry, CCBC, Chief Executive

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