

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2001 AT 10.00 AM**

Report of the Director of Environment

**THE RESULTS OF A REVIEW INTO THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF  
THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

Executive Member : Iris Tarry

Author : Peter Davidson, Head of Service Development, Environmental  
Management Group, Tel. 01992 555230.

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To consider proposals from the Cabinet in light of the conclusions of the Review of Rights of Way seeking endorsement for a revised approach to the management of the Network through the application of a set of strategic principles, a set of policies and a Good Practice Guide.

**2. Summary**

The Environment Committee in March 2000 considered a report on the review of the management of the Public Rights of Way Network. It was decided that it required further investigation into the existing agency arrangements with district authorities, testing of the practical application of the Operations Manual and an investigation into the resources required to implement the categorisation of the Network. The Cabinet on 18 December 2000 (report attached) considered the further work that has been undertaken and made a series of recommendations that are forwarded to the Environment Select Committee for consideration. The Select Committee's comments will be considered by the Cabinet and Executive Committee on 29 January 2001 when the approach to the future management of the Rights of Way Network is finally approved.

**3. Cabinet Proposals**

The Cabinet, on 18 December 2000, recommended :

- 1. That the County Council will adopt from 1 April 2001 the suggested approach of a single objective supported by 3 key principles to inform and guide its future management and investment in the Rights of Way Network supported by the Statement of Policies and the Good Practice Guide.*
- 2. That from 1 April 2001 the Hertfordshire Statement of Policies replace all other policies that have been previously agreed by the County Council.*

3. *That from 1 April 2001 the Hertfordshire Good Practice Guide should be used by the County Council to provide the operational procedures that will normally be applied to the management of the Network for which it is currently directly responsible.*
4. *That the County Council discusses the implications of applying the amended policy and management approach with the Borough Council Agencies and Partnerships with a view to their wider implementation from April 2002.*
5. *That a Countryside Access Strategy should be produced, following consultation with appropriate organisations and interested parties, for adoption by the County Council in Spring 2003.*
6. *That the full implications and impact of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 on County Council services be reported to Cabinet to inform service provision in 2001/02 and budget allocations for 2002/03.*

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Select Committee's comments are invited. These will be passed back for Cabinet and Executive Committee to take into account when final decisions are taken.