

Memorandum of Agreement for the processing of Public Path Orders between Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

This Memorandum outlines agreement reached between Cambridgeshire County Council [The County Council] and South Cambridgeshire District Council [The District Council] concerning the processing of Public Path Orders under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 in Cambridgeshire.

In this Memorandum 'Public Path Orders' refers to all orders that effectively divert, create or extinguish a public right of way.

Legislative Framework

The Highways Act 1980 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enable both District and County Councils to undertake and process Public Path Orders. Orders made under the Highways Act 1980 can be made by either authority. Orders made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can only be made by the appropriate planning authority. However, the planning authority may contract out the processing of such orders to suitably qualified contractors. The County Council has a statutory duty under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map in order to show any changes to the route of a path effected by a public path order under either Act. The two authorities already have an Agreement regarding public path orders made under the Highways Act 1980 whereby the County Council undertakes to assess and make all orders requested under that Act through to confirmation if the applications meet the legal tests.

Public Path Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The County Council will make all orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where they are the Planning Authority. The District Council will be consulted on these orders due to their status as a statutory consultee.

The County Council will receive applications from the public for public path orders which are required under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on behalf of the District Council. The County Council will process the order according to the procedure set out in the Appendix. The County Council will recover its costs from the applicant direct. No charges shall be made by the County Council to the District Council or by the District Council to the County Council for any aspect of making or confirming the order.

Signed on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council by:-

Name.....

Job Title.....

Date.....

Signed on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council by:-

Name.....

Job Title.....

Date.....

Memorandum of Agreement –Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Public Path Orders

Appendix – Procedure for public path orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where Cambridgeshire County Council acts as agent for South Cambridgeshire District Council

- Application made direct to Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council formally notifies South Cambridgeshire District Council of application and timescale for processing application
- South Cambridgeshire District Council arranges slot on relevant committee agenda for consideration of report
- Cambridgeshire County Council carries out formal consultations on the proposed diversion, writes report and prepares a draft order and order map
- South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee considers the report and determines whether the order should or should not be made
- South Cambridgeshire District Council seals the draft order and order map if order is to be made
- Cambridgeshire County Council processes the publication of the order
- If no objections, South Cambridgeshire District Council confirms the order and Cambridgeshire County Council processes the publication of the confirmation
- If objections, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council jointly agree whether or not to submit order to Planning Inspectorate (Secretary of State) for determination

Costs

Cambridgeshire County Council will recoup the costs of making the order direct from the applicant.

The local authority is not permitted to recharge to the applicant the costs of sending an opposed order to the Planning Inspectorate. Therefore, if South Cambridgeshire District Council wishes to submit an order to the Planning Inspectorate, it will meet the Cambridgeshire County Council's costs in doing so or submit the order itself and meet its own costs.

The risk of having to meet these costs should mean that South Cambridgeshire District Council only resolves to make orders where it was reasonably confident that the order would not attract objections. The onus lies with the applicant to provide a diverted route that is acceptable to all parties (including reviewing the proposed diverted route if, after consultations, their original suggestion is not acceptable).