

## 1.0 Executive Summary

This document provides the basis of a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a greenway network across the North West. It provides a potential greenways map, which identifies a series of recommended greenway routes for further investigation, as a result of information gathered and initial consultations. The recommended routes are indicative only and demonstrate desirable positions on the most appropriate alignments found at the time of writing. Negotiations with specific land owners and access providers, as well as new opportunities through land use change and re-development may suggest alternative or more favourable connections.

The entire network will take many years and a cocktail of funding to deliver, however, it is hoped that this plan will provide a blueprint for that development. It will enable a more joined up approach and sharing of resources to ensure efficient delivery and a quality product. Further to the scope of this plan, it is intended that the recommended routes are examined on a project by project basis to formulate a provisional programme of delivery. No priority order for delivery has been set as it is recognised that flexibility is essential to maximise opportunities to respond to funding streams and other factors beyond the control of the lead partners in delivery. It is also important to note that this plan does not supersede or preclude any statutory planning or consultation processes. Engagement and buy in from local communities, land owners and stakeholders is viewed as an essential element throughout the route development process.

The Plan will also help inform future route provision, throughout and connecting out of the region and in particular it will help with the preparation of business cases for funding

Above all else, it is intended that this plan meets the needs of the local area. The proposals are drawn from relevant studies already carried out in the area, including existing policies and planning guidance. It also considers the existing and potential routes already identified within and outside the study area.