

Central Bedfordshire Council

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**Central
Bedfordshire**

Your Countryside

The Outdoor Access Improvement Plan for
Central Bedfordshire
2013 to 2031



Foreword

Central Bedfordshire Council has a critical role in the management of access to the natural environment, both through the rights of way network and through council owned heritage and countryside sites. These act as gateways, encouraging people to develop a sense of place and explore the countryside on their doorstep.

This document provides a clear direction for the current and future management of countryside access and demonstrates how it will:

- Support and enhance Central Bedfordshire's economic potential
- Seek to provide access to high quality greenspace in and around new housing and areas of population growth
- Improve residents' quality of life, health and well being
- Reduce our impact on the environment

Our countryside and heritage sites offer communities and visitors opportunities for recreation, learning and exercise. These sites are connected to a wide range of public rights of way – footpaths, bridleways and byways, which provide an exciting opportunity to explore the special landscapes of the area, ranging from the Chiltern Hills and the Greensand Ridge through to the rivers valleys of the Ouzel, Flit and Ivel.

We recognise that during times of economic hardship, access to free and accessible facilities are particularly important, especially for less well off people and families. Access to our network of rights of way and many countryside sites is not only free but offers something for all the family; we therefore encourage you to go out and explore your countryside.



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Executive Summary

Your Countryside

The Outdoor Access Improvement Plan (OAIP) provides a clear vision of how access to the countryside through countryside sites and public rights of way can contribute to Central Bedfordshire being a great place to live and work. The vision focuses on :

- **Providing access** to a range of high quality green spaces and the wider countryside through a well managed Rights of Way network
- **Involving local communities** in the management of the countryside
- **Raising public confidence and understanding** of countryside access
- **Providing improved biodiversity and heritage management**, integrated with public access.
- **Increasing use and enjoyment** of the Central Bedfordshire countryside for fresh air, relaxation, recreation, health and exercise

The OAIP has been developed to support a range of key local and national priorities and strategies. Deliverables will support the achievement of three key council priorities¹; enhancing Central Bedfordshire, promoting health and wellbeing and providing better infrastructure. Together with the Leisure Strategy, Development Strategy and Green Infrastructure Plans the OAIP will form part of a suite of documents which will plan and deliver countryside access and greenspace in Central Bedfordshire.

There is extensive evidence supporting the need for an OAIP to strategically manage countryside access in Central Bedfordshire. Consultation shows that there are a diverse range of countryside users with different priorities, interests and requirements. There is also an array of legal requirements, statutory duties and agreed standards applying to elements of countryside access. The OAIP provides a considered approach to meeting duties and prioritising differing demands within existing resources and a difficult economic and financial climate.

The main body of the OAIP divides countryside access responsibilities into five thematic chapters; connecting spaces, breathing spaces, local spaces, healthy spaces and growing spaces.

¹ Delivering Your Priorities: The Council's Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012-16

Chapter 3 '*Connecting Spaces*' demonstrates the importance of the Public Rights of Way network in providing local access to amenities, opportunities for exercise and corridors for wildlife. It also outlines the unique challenges for the rights of way network and presents a range of actions which will ensure that the network is well maintained. Priorities include:

- The resolution of definitive map anomalies, where paths have historically been obstructed or built upon
- Improving network connectivity, particularly in relation to bridleways.

Chapter 4 '*Breathing Spaces*' describes the expansive network of greenspace and countryside sites that Central Bedfordshire has to offer. 57% of residents access the wider countryside on a daily or weekly basis and evidence shows that users value the peace and tranquillity of the countryside above all. Greenspaces are key resources for learning and wildlife but are also important in attracting tourists and supporting the rural economy.

The priority for this chapter is greenspace masterplanning to provide long-term management proposals for countryside features. Other priorities include improving the network of greenspaces and improving access to both small community greenspaces and large countryside sites.

Chapter 5 '*Local Spaces*' encourages community ownership and involvement with local sites and rights of way as these spaces are shown to "*provide communities with a sense of place and belonging... whilst supporting social cohesion and inclusive society.*"² The chapter also celebrates the role of local communities and volunteers in managing greenspaces and prioritises both the expansion of the volunteer network and the improvement of support and training for volunteers.

Chapter 6 '*Healthy Spaces*' identifies extensive research linking access to the countryside with increased levels of physical activity and significant health benefits. Maximising access to the countryside is shown to impact on obesity, a range of physical health issues and on mental health; on a national scale it offers considerable savings to the NHS. Central Bedfordshire's extensive network of greenspaces, countryside sites and rights of way offers people excellent free opportunities for increasing physical activity through walking, cycling, running and play. Through the

² Green Space – Understanding the contribution parks and greenspaces can make to improving peoples lives (2011)

OAIP and the Leisure Strategy the council aims to extend opportunities for physical activity and play and promote the health benefits of accessing the countryside.

Chapter 7 '*Growing Spaces*' identifies the importance of the Development Strategy in creating new countryside sites and rights of way and improving connectivity between developments, green spaces and amenities. It highlights the importance of the Community Infrastructure Levy in ensuring new communities have appropriate access to greenspaces and the need to ensure that new development proposals adequately safeguard, enhance and develop the network of greenspaces and rights of way.

The OAIP has identified five key projects which offer considerable benefits to countryside access and highlighted their significance as flagship projects. Four projects are thematic; offering benefits across the council area. One project is site based and has been recognised as a Flagship Project due to its scale and the significant benefits it offers the local community.

In addition, a range of deliverables have been identified and captured within the Action Plan. The Action Plan will last for ten years and will be reviewed and revised every five years to ensure deliverables remain appropriate and relevant throughout the life of the OAIP. The overarching plan will cover the period up to 2031.

Many of the aims and deliverables contained within the OAIP and Action Plan are resource dependent. Some can be achieved within existing resources whilst some will require additional funding or support. The OAIP has considered ways in which the funding gap can be minimised and this is outlined within the Funding Statement contained in Section 9.

Contents

Foreword	i
Executive Summary	ii
1 Context	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Vision - Central Bedfordshire as a Great Place to Live and Work.....	4
1.3 Key Priorities: The Local and National Context	5
1.4 Delivery of the OAIP	16
2 Assessment of Needs	18
2.1 About Central Bedfordshire.....	18
2.2 How do People Use the Countryside?.....	20
2.3 What Do People Value?.....	22
3 Connecting Spaces: Rights of Way	26
3.1 What are Connecting Spaces?	26
3.2 How are Connecting Spaces used?	40
3.3 The Importance of Connecting Spaces	42
3.4 Connecting Spaces: The Next 10 Years	46
3.5 Action Plan Summary for Connecting Spaces.....	49
3.6 Policies for Connecting Spaces.....	50
4 Breathing Spaces: Sites and Greenspace	52
4.1 What are Breathing Spaces?	52
4.2 How are Breathing Spaces Used?	62
4.3 The Importance of Breathing Spaces.....	65
4.4 Breathing Spaces: The Next 10 Years	68
4.5 Action Plan Summary for Breathing Spaces.....	69
4.6 Policies for Breathing Spaces	69
5 Local Spaces ... Community Involvement and Participation	72
5.1 What are Local Spaces?	72
5.2 How are Local Spaces Used?	83
5.3 The Importance of Local Spaces.....	85
5.4 Local Spaces: The Next 10 Years.....	88
5.5 Action Plan Summary for Local Spaces	90
5.6 Policies for Local Spaces	91

6	Healthy Spaces: Health and Wellbeing	93
6.1	What are Healthy Spaces?	93
6.2	How are Healthy Spaces Used?	98
6.3	The Importance of Healthy Spaces	100
6.4	Healthy Spaces: The Next 10 Years	104
6.5	Action Plan Summary for Healthy Spaces.....	105
6.6	Policies for Healthy Spaces	106
7	Growing Spaces: Countryside and Growth	108
7.1	What are Growing Spaces?	108
7.2	Why are Growing Spaces Important?	114
7.3	Growing Spaces: The Next 10 Years	115
7.4	Action Plan Summary for Growing Spaces	116
7.5	Policies for Growing Spaces	117
8	Action Plan	119
8.1	Structure of the Action Plan	119
8.2	Flagship Projects	121
9	Managing Delivery	135
9.1	Monitoring and Performance.....	135
9.2	Funding Statement.....	137
9.3	Accessibility Statement	144
10	Glossary	146

Context

Vision and Key Priorities



1 Context

Vision and Key Priorities

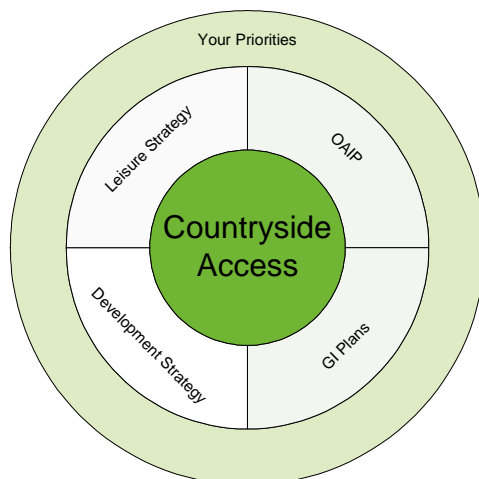
1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 What is the Outdoor Access Improvement Plan?

This Outdoor Access Improvement Plan (OAIP) will focus on outdoor and countryside access in Central Bedfordshire for the period 2013 to 2031.

The strategy includes a 10-year action plan that will direct activity during the period 2013 to 2023 and will provide a high level steer for the annual rolling Service Business Plan. The Action Plan will be regularly reviewed up to 2031 to ensure that the programme of work aligns with relevant council priorities, national influences and emerging evidence and research.

The OAIP will provide the policies and actions which will aim to deliver increased countryside access and community involvement. The OAIP is forward thinking and aspirational, however, there is also recognition that there may not be enough resources to deliver all of the projects, policies and actions at once. The council will seek to prioritise projects over the plan period and direct resources accordingly. The council will work creatively to seek other ways of working and funding sources in order to deliver on the plan.



The OAIP will form part of a suite of documents, which will plan and deliver countryside access and greenspace in Central Bedfordshire. The OAIP focuses on delivering and managing council owned and / or managed provision. It will complement the Leisure Strategy which will provide a comprehensive picture of all leisure facilities and opportunities within Central Bedfordshire and guide provision through new

development. It will also link with Green Infrastructure Plans which identify existing greenspace assets and future opportunities, resulting in the identification of a GI 'network' and 'priority areas' for future investment. There is also a key link with the Development Strategy which provides the framework for growth in the area.

Statutory Duty

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gave Local Authorities a statutory duty to publish and review, at least every ten years, a 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan' (ROWIP). The aim of this Plan is to fulfil the council's duty to create greater access to the countryside for social and economic benefits, and to protect the environment.

The statutory guidance requires authorities to develop proposals to improve and manage their networks to meet the present, and likely future, needs of the public; looking at ways in which they can benefit health, transport, recreation, tourism and the local economy. Authorities must also develop a ROWIP within the context of other relevant plans and strategies - including healthy living, leisure, recreation, sport, tourism, economic regeneration, transport, planning and community strategies – so that they 'influence' these areas of responsibility. It also explicitly requires assessment of opportunities for exercise and other forms of 'open area recreation and enjoyment of the area'.

The OAIP will incorporate the information that would usually be contained within a ROWIP (and fulfil the statutory duty), but will also go further; building upon this statutory platform and providing the linkages and synergies with other forms of countryside provision.

The Legacy of the OAIP 2006-2011

In 2006, the former Bedfordshire County Council created an OAIP that received a national award for innovation from Natural England. This Plan looked holistically at outdoor access and rights of way, managing and providing access to the countryside and included the statutory 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan'. The original OAIP transferred as an adopted plan to Central Bedfordshire Council, as one of the two successive unitary authorities.

Outdoor Access Improvement Plan 2013 - 2031

The 2013 – 2031 OAIP will replace the existing OAIP 2006 – 2011 and continue to look at rights of way and outdoor access in the broader holistic sense.

Green space and access to the wider countryside is a central component of providing sustainable communities, ensuring that Central Bedfordshire continues to be a green and pleasant place to live and work. The new plan will have a key role in helping people and communities explore and understand Central Bedfordshire's countryside. The plan will seek to ensure communities are involved in the stewardship and management of countryside access and countryside sites.

This Plan will act as the cornerstone 'strategy' for countryside and outdoor access management for Central Bedfordshire and for the delivery of services and projects for the period 2013 to 2031. This period that the OAIP will operate is in parallel with the Council's' Development Strategy and Leisure Strategy.

1.2 Vision - Central Bedfordshire as a Great Place to Live and Work

This document outlines, in the broadest sense, the wide range of countryside access that the council manages and supports – from Country Parks and Rights of Way to woodlands and wildlife sites – and the range of benefits that they bring. The challenge for local authorities is to provide a greater focus on efficiency, productivity and effective expenditure in times of economic challenge. Countryside spaces must provide a demonstrable contribution to improving outcomes that really matter to local people, for example health and wellbeing, the local economy, community safety and most importantly the sense of satisfaction with their local area.

Our vision focuses on Central Bedfordshire as a great place to live and work, which we intend to deliver by:

- **Providing access** to a range of high quality green spaces and the wider countryside through a well managed Rights of Way network
- **Involving local communities** in the management of the countryside
- **Raising public confidence and understanding** of countryside access
- **Providing improved Biodiversity and Heritage management**, integrated with public access.
- **Increasing use and enjoyment** of the Central Bedfordshire countryside for fresh air, relaxation, recreation, health and exercise

We want the council's accessible countryside and green spaces to be:

- Connecting Spaces: Rights of Way
...taking you through the landscape
- Breathing Spaces: Sites and Greenspaces
...oases of calm at the heart of your community
- Local Spaces: Community Involvement and Participation
...the green space on our doorstep
- Healthy Spaces: Health and Wellbeing
...which encourage us to get active
- Growing Spaces: The Countryside and Growth
...sustaining our communities

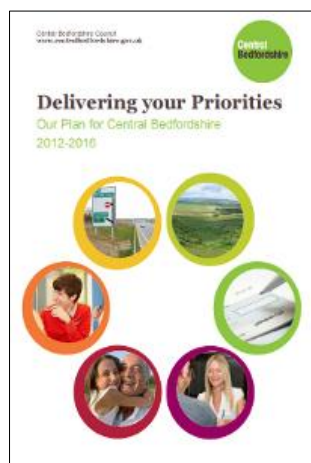
1.3 Key Priorities: The Local and National Context

1.3.1 Local Priorities - Central Bedfordshire

The OAIP complements and supports many of the key strategies and priorities within Central Bedfordshire. The OAIP will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the plan continues to be strategically aligned with the priorities of the council and its key partners.

Delivering your Priorities: The council's Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012 – 2016

Residents have given the council clear and consistent feedback about their attitudes to the authority and the area. In response to this, Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to six key priorities, three of which are key drivers for the OAIP:



committed to six key priorities, three of which are key drivers for the OAIP:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting the countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
- Promoting health and well being and protecting the vulnerable.
- Better infrastructure

The OAIP will support the delivery of these objectives through a range of specific actions to protect the countryside, improve greenspace facilities and encourage increased access to the countryside for exercise and recreational purposes. These will all contribute to Central Bedfordshire being a great place to live and work.

Development Strategy

The Development Strategy is a new planning policy document that will set the framework for growth across Central Bedfordshire. It will set out how much development (housing, employment, retail etc) the council needs to plan for and broadly where it should go. It will also establish detailed policies to determine planning applications.

Development Strategy Policies relevant to the OAIP

Accessible Open Space	Development in the Green Belt
Leisure and Open Space provision	Formally Designated Important Open Space
Public Rights of Way	Other Areas of Open Space within Settlements
Local Green Space	High Quality Development
Equestrian Development And the Keeping And Breeding Of Livestock	Green Infrastructure, Forest of Marston Vale and Nature Improvement Areas
Landscape	Biodiversity and Geo-diversity
Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows	Historic Environment

The relationship between countryside access and development will be dealt with in more detail in the 'Growing Spaces' Section.

The Sustainable Community Strategy

The Sustainable Community Strategy is based on a shared long-term vision for Central Bedfordshire that has been developed by Central Bedfordshire Together, which is the name for Central Bedfordshire's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

There are obvious connections between outdoor access and the priorities 'Promoting Health' and 'Getting around and caring for a green and clean environment'. These connections will be explored in the relevant sections of the OAIP.



Leisure Strategy

The purpose of the Leisure Strategy 2013-2031 is to provide a robust evidence base on which to base planning standards and secure appropriate leisure facilities & S106/CIL, to accompany new development.

It plays a key role in supporting CBC's responsibility for public health from 2014; ensuring sustainable, high quality sport and physical activity infrastructure and opportunities to enable residents to live active lives, prevent ill health, improve overall health & wellbeing, and reduce care costs. A key objective is to ensure the number of adults taking part in sport and physical activity remains above the national average

Green Infrastructure Plans

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and managed network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which meet the needs of existing and new communities.

Green Infrastructure Plans identify both existing assets and future opportunities, resulting in the identification of a GI 'network' and 'priority areas' for future investment. GI planning has taken place at 3 different levels in Bedfordshire:

- Strategic Level – The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic GI Plan (2007)
- 'Middle' or 'District' Level – The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan (2009) and the Luton & Southern Bedfordshire GI Plan (2010)
- Parish/Town Level GI Plans

The Bedfordshire and Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (GIC) is a wide, cross-sector partnership that has brought together a range of environment sector partners, driven by the need to ensure that growth planned and being delivered across the area is sustainable. In 2012 the GIC applied for, and secured, 'Local Nature Partnership' status from Central Government.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) are a key Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) commitment. The ambition for LNP is that they will help their local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decision-making for the benefit of nature, people, and the economy.

The Forest Plan - Forest of Marston Vale

The Marston Vale Community Forest is one of 12 Community Forests in England that were established in 1990 by the then Countryside Commission as a pilot project to demonstrate the potential contribution of environmental improvement to economic and social regeneration.

The headline target is to achieve 30% tree cover by 2031, however, regeneration is the key driver behind the environmental transformation with social, economic and environmental benefits both now and for generations to come.

The creation of the Forest of Marston Vale is guided by the 'Forest Plan'³, a non-statutory strategic framework prepared through extensive consultation and endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders, from local communities to Government.

Notably the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴ has given specific support for Community Forests stating that they "...offer valuable opportunities for improving the environment around towns, by upgrading the landscape and providing for recreation and wildlife".

The council shares the aspirations of the Forest of Marston Vale and has designed actions and policies contained within the OAIP to actively support the Forest Plan.

Economic Development Plan

The council manages an extensive network of countryside sites and rights of way across Central Bedfordshire, which enable people to access green space and the rural environment. This network is key to realising the economic benefits of rural and environmental tourism, and is an intrinsic part of Central Bedfordshire's economic development.

Business interests have highlighted the area's 'attractive surroundings' as a strength and the Local Economic Assessment identifies 'considerable opportunity' to develop tourism and leisure businesses and enhance the 'high quality environment' as a means of supporting local job growth and increasing retail and leisure spend in the area.

³ The Forest Plan, The Marston Vale Trust 2000

⁴ National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Department for Communities and Local Government 2012

The Central Bedfordshire Council Economic Development Plan (November 2011) recognises the key role that rural businesses play in Central Bedfordshire's economy. It aims to safeguard rural employment sites, support rural business diversification and provide development opportunities while striking a balance with the need to protect our countryside. Countryside Access can help to provide the link between the economy and countryside; achieving benefits for both.

The relationship between countryside access and the economy will be dealt with throughout the OAIP and in Section 7 - '*Growing Spaces*'.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2016 prioritises the reduction of childhood obesity and strives to help people make healthy lifestyle choices. Both priorities identify that increasing opportunities for physical activity will be key to achieving them.

Evidence demonstrates that access to the natural environment improves health and wellbeing, prevents disease, helps people recover from illness and reduces health inequalities.⁵ Experiencing nature in the outdoors can help tackle obesity, coronary heart disease and mental health problems⁶ and therefore accessing rights of way and countryside sites for walking, sports, play and recreation could significantly contribute to achieving health priorities.

From April 2013, Directors of Public Health will be employed by local authorities; further strengthening the link between the health agenda and council services. Activity aiming to connect people with nature for the benefit of public health will be increasingly important.

The relationship of countryside access and health will be dealt with in more detail in Section 6 - '*Healthy Spaces*'.

⁵ Fair Society, Healthy Lives, The Marmot Review, 2010.

⁶ Natural England – Health and Natural Environments, An Evidence Based Information Pack, March 2012

Community Engagement Strategy

The Central Bedfordshire Community Engagement Strategy 2010 – 2013 will enable Central Bedfordshire Council to establish a new relationship with individuals and organisations and help communities understand the tough choices and decisions ahead. It will also manage their expectations about the service levels provided by the public sector in the future.

The strategy is based on five key principles, which are:

- Giving more people more opportunities to influence decisions
- Enabling Ward Councillors to be leaders, in and for, their communities
- Enhancing the role of Town and Parish Council's
- Building the capacity of local people to engage
- Ensuring a strategic and joined-up, coordinated partnership approach

The relationship between countryside access and community engagement will be explored in more detail in Section 5 - '*Local Spaces*'.

Local Transport Plan

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) forms a long-term framework for investment in transport infrastructure and services across Central Bedfordshire. It is a statutory requirement of the authority to produce and maintain the Plan, which considers the needs of all forms of transport, particularly walking, cycling, buses, rail and car use.

The time period for implementing the LTP covers the period between April 2011 and March 2026 to enable a strategic approach to the delivery of transport schemes and help secure lasting changes in travel behaviour.

The LTP sets out a long-term framework for investment in transport across Central Bedfordshire. The LTP, supporting thematic strategies (including the Walking and Cycling Strategies) and Local Area Transport Plans (LATP) seek to enable people to make more informed travel choices and reduce reliance on the car; increasing the number of people walking and cycling.

Local Transport Plans should recommend the development of the Rights of Way network to allow multi use in order to open up important new routes, connecting communities and providing access to the authorities green spaces including its Country Parks and other leisure destinations.

Walking Strategy Objectives

Headline Objective: Increase the number of people walking

Improve the quality of the pedestrian environment

Improve the safety of pedestrians

Increase awareness of the benefits of walking

Cycling Strategy Objectives

Headline Objective: Increase the number of people cycling

Improve the quality of the cycling environment

Improve the safety and perceived safety of cycling

Increase awareness of the benefits of cycling

Increase access to a bicycle

1.3.2 National Priorities

This plan will demonstrate how countryside access can support national priorities, including localism, mental and physical health improvement, sustainability, housing growth as well as achieving benefits to the natural environment and the way that people engage with it.

Rights of Way

There are a number of national government strategies and plans that relate to rights of way and their management. These include:

- Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIP) – Statutory Guidance to Local Highway Authorities in England (DEFRA Nov 2002)
- Local Transport Plan and RoWIP Integration (Natural England 2009)
- Guidance on Local Transport Plans (DfT 2009)
- Guidance on Local Transport Plans and the Natural Environment (Natural England 2009)
- The National Planning Policy Framework
- The Natural Choice – Natural Environment White Paper Natural England June 2011

Localism

The Localism Act 2011 devolves greater powers to council's and neighbourhoods and gives local communities more control over housing and planning decisions. The OAIP seeks ways to strengthen community involvement and ownership and explores this in more detail in Section 5 – '*Local Spaces*'

The Natural Environment

The Natural Environment White Paper, entitled *The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature*,⁷ provides the high-level recognition of the importance of nature and its benefits to the wider society. Priorities include:

- **Protecting and improving our natural environment** – stimulating joined up action to arrest the decline of habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes and move towards a net gain in the value of nature.
- **Growing a green economy** – promote a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but also contributes to improving it. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of natural resources.
- **Reconnecting people and nature** – There should be fair and equal access to a good-quality natural environment, where more people will enjoy the benefits of nature and have the freedom to connect with it.

Planning and Growth

At the time of writing the OAIP the planning system in England and Wales was undergoing significant changes, most fundamentally the government announced that it proposed to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies in favour of more local planning decisions and has published a new 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) to replace the previous planning guidance and policies.

The NPPF recognises that access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Information gained from quantitative or qualitative assessments of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and access.

⁷ Published by DEFRA in June 2011

The National Planning Policy Framework Policies

Supporting a prosperous rural economy	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
Promoting sustainable transport	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Promoting healthy communities	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
Local Green Space	Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
Protecting Green Belt land	

Supporting a Strong Rural Economy

The Natural Environment White Paper identified Government aspirations to “value the economic and social benefits of a healthy natural environment” and to reconnect people with nature, stating:

“...we want to see a shift away from people using their cars to get to national parks and open spaces, with more people choosing public transport, cycling or walking. There is evidence that cyclists and walkers spend more in the local economy than visitors by car, benefiting local communities. New cycling and walking routes can have a positive effect on the local economy.”⁸

The White Paper stated that the mechanism to achieve this would be the £560m Local Sustainable Transport Fund. To this end Central Bedfordshire Council applied for and was awarded £4.9 million from the Sustainable Transport Fund to encourage walking and cycling, improve public transport and make better connections between different forms of sustainable transport in the south of the County.

⁸ ‘The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature’, DEFRA June 2011, p.52

Biodiversity

Legislation to protect wildlife in the UK includes the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA 1981) the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) Act 2000 and the Habitat Regulations (amended 2007/2009) provide for the designation and protection of 'European Sites' and 'Species'.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 gives the council a legal obligation to its management of the Rights of Way and Permissive Path Network, Country Parks, Nature Reserves, Green Spaces to ensure it *"in exercising its functions, has regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"*.

Managing public access to the countryside also requires reference to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the UK in line with international commitments and Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation which highlights that Local Planning Authorities should refuse permission where harm to protected or notable species or their habitats would result unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh that harm.

Health

The Department of Health Strategy Healthy Lives, Healthy People⁹ highlights that many premature deaths and illnesses could be prevented through improving lifestyles; citing an increase in physical activity as one of the three key changes that would impact on prevention of cancers and circulatory illnesses. It also states that improving the environment in which people live can make healthier lifestyles easier to achieve; an unattractive environment and a lack of green space prevents physical activity and contact with nature being part of everyday life.

Rights of way and countryside sites provide ideal opportunities for low cost exercise through walking, a range of sports, and more generally play and recreation; contributing to national priorities to increase physical activity and address lifestyle and health issues.

⁹ Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England, 2010

1.4 Delivery of the OAIP

Fundamental to the delivery of the OAIP is the Action Plan that details the priorities drawn out from the main themes of the OAIP. The Action Plan will detail the work streams and projects, with timescales and the resources required for delivery. Structured into five sections and with thirteen aims which represent the priority actions across the initial 10 year period. It will be updated every 5 years during the OAIP period. The aims and actions are detailed within the individual chapters and summarised below:

Chapter 6: Connecting spaces- Public Rights of Way

- Aim 1 - A Well Maintained Network
- Aim 2 - A Better Defined and Recorded Network
- Aim 3 - A Well Connected Network
- Aim 4 - A More Accessible Network

Chapter 7: Breathing spaces- Sites and Greenspaces

- Aim 5 - Well Managed Countryside Spaces
- Aim 6 - Commons, Village Greens and Access Areas will be legally defined with people understanding their rights

Chapter 8: Local spaces- Community Involvement and Participation

- Aim 7 – More people volunteering to support OAIP objectives
- Aim 8 – Increased Town and Parish Council involvement in countryside sites and rights of way management and development
- Aim 9 – The council will contribute to supporting the rural economy
- Aim 10 – More people have access to good quality information and are aware of countryside access close to them
- Aim 11 – Support and Provide Environmental Education opportunities

Chapter 9: Healthy spaces- Health and Wellbeing

- Aim 12 – Countryside Spaces and Rights of Way will facilitate play, health, wellbeing and physical activities

Chapter 10: Growing spaces - Countryside and the Growth Agenda

- Aim 13 – The quantity and quality of rights of way and greenspaces meet the needs of current and future communities