



## Access Controls and Barriers Policy.

### Background.

Sefton Council has made a plan to help everyone use paths easily, like people walking, cycling, or using wheelchairs. The Council want to remove things that block paths, so that travel is easy for all. The Council also has to think about stopping bad behaviour on paths.



### Policy Aim.

The plan is to remove barriers or make them easier to use on different types of paths. The plan needs to fit with government rules on barriers.



Sefton Council will start by looking at routes used for fun, like the coastal paths and the Cheshire Lines path. The Council will check that the barriers follow the rules and change or remove them if they don't. This will make paths better for everyone.

### Current rules.

There are three important laws about access:

- Equality Act 2010.
- Highways Act 1980.
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.



These laws help make sure places are fair and easy to use for everyone, including disabled people. People designing paths need to follow these laws. They also need to think about advice from different groups.



## The new plan.

The new plan made by Sefton Council says to remove barriers on paths unless there has been lots of bad behaviour. If bad behaviour is a problem that keeps happening, they want to add in bollards or chicanes.

Bollards are thick, short, round metal poles in the ground in the path. They are spread apart so mobility scooters and wheelchairs can still get through the gap.

Chicanes are made up of two metal fences that take up about half the path. These fences are separated down the path, making a zigzag shape for people to fit through. They are far enough apart that mobility scooters and wheelchairs can fit through the gap.

## Things to think about when changing barriers:

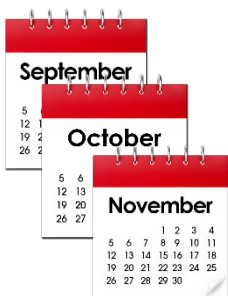
These are some of the questions the council think about when looking at barriers.

- Do the barriers in place follow the rules of this plan and the rules from the government?
- Does the area have problems with bad behaviour? Sometimes barriers are put up because of this.
- Are there other ways to stop bad behaviour without using barriers. There might be better solutions that work well.
- The Council should spend money on places that help lots of people. Busy paths should get more attention than quiet ones. This means barriers on busy paths get looked at by the Council first.



This plan looks at the busy paths first. These are:

- Crosby Coastal Path.
- Formby and Woodvale.
- Leeds-Liverpool Canal Towpath; Bootle and Litherland Section.
- Leeds-Liverpool Canal Towpath; Netherton Section.
- Maghull and Brooms Cross.
- Rimrose Valley.
- Seaforth and Waterloo - Rimrose Valley to Crosby Coastal Path.
- Southport.



These plans are on busy paths that people go down for fun, like the coast and parks.

Other paths are the path alongside the canal and paths joining Rimrose Valley and the Crosby Coastal Path going through Seaforth and Waterloo.



Before making changes, the Council needs to watch the barriers for problems for three months. The Council will talk to people involved or affected before making any changes.



Trans Pennine Trail®



## Working with others

The Council plan was made using ideas from the government, like the Department for Transport and Environment. It also looked at advice from the Ramblers Association, Trans Pennine Trail, and Sports England.

These groups want paths to remove barriers and make paths easier to use for everyone, including disabled people.

Sefton Council will work with nearby councils and the regional Combined Authority to remove barriers on popular long-distance paths like the National Cycle Network.