

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2016**

**ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises the Committee of the changes to the membership of the Angus Local Access Forum.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) agrees to the appointment of Peter Fiabane as a User Representative

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 required “that each Local Authority shall establish for its area a body known as the Local Access Forum”. The Act further specifies that the function of such a Forum will be to “advise the Local Authority and other person or body consulting the Forum on matters having to do with the exercise of access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way or the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths”.

3.2 The Act did not specify the makeup of the Local Access Forum and the Council agreed to follow the guidance produced at the time by “Paths for All”. This recommended that the Forum comprise four interest groups i.e. Users, Land Managers, Community Interest and Public Agencies. A total of four representatives are sought for each group other than Public Agencies but there is no minimum number required for the Forum to operate successfully; the more important aspect being that the Forum maintains a balance across the groups.

3.3 Members agreed the appointment of representatives to the Angus Local Access Forum in 2005 (report No. 519/05 refers). Subsequent changes to the structure of the Forum were duly reported to members.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 The Forum currently has four Community Representatives, two User Representative and three Land Manager Representatives.

- 4.2 The Forum aims to have a rolling programme for replacement of representatives, and with that in mind applications for further representatives were sought at the time of the public meeting of the Forum in October 2015.
- 4.2 One application for a User Representative was received. Forum members have been actively seeking further applications for User and Land Manager representatives, but none have been received to date.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 Following consultation with the representatives on the Forum it was agreed that Peter Fiabane should be appointed as a User Representative.
- 5.2 The above candidate is a walker and cyclist, and a member of the Brechin Group of the Ramblers Association.
- 5.2 In accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the members of the Local Access Forum are to be appointed by the local authority. It is therefore recommended that the above candidate be appointed as a member of the Forum.
- 5.4 Further applications for membership will continue to be sought.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations contained in this report

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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