

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 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 James Gray-Cheape and Antony Gifford as Land Manager representatives on the Angus Local ACCESS Forum.

**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 “Each Local Authority shall establish for its area a body, to be 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 precise 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, three User Representative and three Land Manager Representatives.

4.2 The Forum aims to have a rolling programme for replacement of representatives. One of the current Land Manager representatives has been a member since the establishment of the Forum, and one has been unable to attend meeting due to other commitments. With that in mind applications for further representatives were sought.

4.3 Two applications for Land Manager representatives were received.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

5.1 Following consultation with the representatives on the Forum it was agreed that James Gray-Cheape and Antony Gifford should be appointed as Land Manager representatives. It was agreed that Ivan Laird should step down as a User Representative.

5.2 James Gray-Cheape owns and farms land near Forfar. Antony Gifford lives and works at an estate near Kirriemuir.

5.3 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 candidates be appointed as members of the Forum.

5.4 Further applications for User Representatives 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.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Vivien Smith, Head of Planning and Place  
**EMAIL DETAILS:** [CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk](mailto:CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk)