

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**CORE PATHS PLAN – PROGRAMME OF WORKS**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report updates members on progress with the programme of improvements to core paths.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes progress with the programme of improvements to core paths;
- (ii) approves the amended timescales for delivery of the improvement programme.

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

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced

**3. BACKGROUND**

The Angus Council Core Paths Plan was adopted on 23 November 2010 and a three year programme of improvements to the core paths was agreed at the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting on the 14 June 2012 (report 309/12 refers). The report advised members that 225 of 309 core paths required signposting or minor improvements such as vegetation clearance, installation of gates; and minor improvements to drainage and path surfaces.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

Implementation of the programme of works has taken considerably longer than initially anticipated. This is due to staffing constraints, the geographic spread of the works involved and the need to consult and in many cases obtain agreement from a large number of land owners.

To date, 50 core paths have been signposted and improved. These include paths in the coastal part of Angus, from Craigo southwards to Carnoustie, and a number of paths around Forfar, in the southern Sidlaw area; and in Glen Clova and Glen Isla.

**5. PROPOSALS**

The three year timescale for the programme of works has now ended, and there remains a significant number of paths requiring works. It is proposed that the remaining works should now be re-programmed over a further 4 years, from financial year 2015/16 to 2018/19. It is proposed that the works will provisionally be phased as follows, subject to obtaining necessary agreements for the works:-

- 2015/16 – Remaining paths in the southern Sidlaws area west of the A90. Remaining paths in the Forfar area. Paths in the Letham area. Remedial works to bridge and steps on core path 116, Friockheim.

- 2016/17 – Paths in Strathmore, Kirriemuir area and the western Angus glens.
- 2017/18 – Remaining paths in the south eastern part of Angus, including the areas surrounding Montreathmont, Friockheim, Monikie and Wellbank.
- 2018/19 – Path around Brechin, Edzell and the eastern Angus glens.

The phasing of the works will be adjusted as appropriate if, for example, community led projects make it expedient to bring forward works to particular paths. An indicative map of the proposed phasing has been placed in the Information Hub.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The improvement works will be contained within the budget previously approved by Infrastructure Services Committee and contained in the financial plan legally committed capital expenditure: Core Paths Improvement Programme. It is proposed that the expenditure be re-phased as follows:-

2015/16 - £75,000  
2016/17 - £72,000  
2017/18 - £72,000  
2018/19 - £72,000

The revenue implications of the works as agreed in the previous report are unaltered.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 309/12, Angus Council Infrastructure Services Committee, June 2012

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