

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

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

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) agrees the appointment of Fiona Waddell as a user representative
- (ii) agrees the appointment of Jill Paterson, Environment and Development Plan Manager, as the Angus Council 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, three User Representative and four Land Manager Representatives.

4.2 One application for a user representative has been received.

- 4.2 Angus Council's appointed representative, Kirsty Macari, has moved to another role within the Council and has stepped down from the Forum.
- 4.3 The Council's Countryside Access Officer handles routine administration of the Forum and presents relevant access cases and issues to the meetings.
- 4.4 Forestry Commission Scotland is not currently represented on the Forum, as the previous representative has moved to a different role in the organisation. They have advised that a new representative will be nominated once the local Woodland Officer post has been filled.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Following consultation with the representatives on the Forum it was agreed that Fiona Waddell should be appointed as a user representative. Fiona Waddell has a particular interest in horse riding and lives near Kirriemuir.
- 5.2 The view of the Forum is that there should continue to be formal representation of Angus Council on the Forum in addition to attendance by the Countryside Access Officer. Recognising current limitations on Council resources they are however of the view that the Council member could be a corresponding member, attending meeting only when appropriate agenda items arise. It is recommended that Jill Paterson, Environment and Development Plans Manager, should be appointed as the Council representative, as an alternative member of the Environment and Development Plan team.
- 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.

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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