

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 AUGUST 2018

ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Committee of the changes to the membership of the Angus Local Access Forum and seeks approval for appointment of new representatives to the Forum.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) agrees to the appointment of Nicholas Hamilton as a user representative,
- (ii) agrees to the appointment of Alan Hunter, Manager - Development Standards, as the Angus Council representative,
- (iii) appoint Angus Grey as the Forestry Commission representative.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

PEOPLE

- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- A reduced carbon footprint
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

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 requires the Council to have regard to certain matters when making appointments but 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 membership of the Forum were duly reported to members.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Forum currently has three Community representatives, three User representative and three Land Manager representatives, following the resignation of Gavin Dobson (Land Manager representative), Patricia Harrow (User representative) and Alban Houghton (Community representative).
- 4.2 One application for a user representative has been received.
- 4.3 As a result of the recent management review Angus Council's appointed representative, Jill Paterson, no longer manages the Council's outdoor access responsibilities.
- 4.4 Forestry Commission Scotland have nominated a new member of staff to represent them on the Forum.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Following consultation with the representatives on the Forum it was recommended that Nicholas Hamilton should be appointed as a user representative. Nicholas Hamilton has a particular interest in walking and hillwalking, and knowledge of horse riding.
- 5.2 Alan Hunter, Manager - Development Standards, now manages the Council's outdoor access responsibilities and is proposed as a replacement for Jill Paterson.
- 5.3 Forestry Commission Scotland has nominated Angus Grey, Woodland Officer as their representative.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Nominations will be sought for new Community and Land Manager representatives.

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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