

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 13 AUGUST 2019**

**ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks approval for appointment of a new representative to the Angus Local Access Forum.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) agrees to the appointment of Mairi Simms as a Community representative.

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

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome:

- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being
- 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 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 were 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 AND PROPOSALS**

4.1 Five new members were appointed to the Forum in May 2019 (report 176/19 refers). Appendix 1 contains a list of current members, and the interest group that they represent. The aim is to have four members in each interest group. The community interest group currently has three members.

- 4.2 Mairi Simms has applied to represent the community interest group. She is a wheelchair user with first-hand experience of disability access issues, including as a member of a disabled ramblers group. She attended the May meeting of the Forum. The Forum recommended that she should be appointed as a member.
- 4.3 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 candidate be appointed as a member of the Forum.

## 5. 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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**List of current members.**

**User representatives**

John Hamilton, appointed October 2013  
Fiona Waddell, appointed September 2017  
Nicholas Hamilton, appointed August 2018  
Irene McGugan, appointed May 2019

**Land Manager representatives**

Gill Lawrie, appointed November 2014, stepping down after September 2019 meeting  
James Gray-Cheape, appointed November 2016  
Antony Gifford, appointed November 2016  
Euan Walker-Munro, appointed May 2019  
John Rymer, appointed May 2019

**Community representatives**

Barbara Thompson, appointed October 2010  
Cathy Stephenson, appointed October 2013  
Meg Mearns, appointed May 2019

**Agency representatives**

Alan Hunter, Angus Council, appointed August 2018  
Mike Strachan, Scottish Forestry, appointed May 2019