

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

28 NOVEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

<p>Abstract: This report updates members on progress made to date in relation to Path Networks and proposes a way forward.</p>

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

1. notes progress with Path Networks;
2. authorise a contribution of up to £18,000 towards Phase 2 of the Arbroath Path Network subject to confirmation of external funding;
3. authorise the Director of Roads to let the contracts for Phase 2 of the Arbroath Path Network.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Committee at their meeting on 13 June 2002 noted progress with the Path Networks and agreed to meet design costs for Phase 2 of the Arbroath Path Network.

3 FORFAR PATH NETWORK

- 3.1 The contract for Phase 2 of the Forfar Path Network has now been completed.
- 3.2 Repairs to one path have been postponed due to unsuitable weather conditions. This path and those which are subject to outstanding access agreements will be reviewed at a later date.
- 3.3 The contract for signposting the network has now been completed.
- 3.4 Work is progressing on production of a leaflet, containing a map, to promote the network. It is anticipated that this will be available early next year.

4 ARBROATH PATH NETWORK

- 4.1 Phase 1 of the Arbroath Path Network has now been completed.
- 4.2 Proposals for a second phase of the Arbroath Path Network have now been developed. It is proposed that this should be completed within the current financial year in order to take advantage of external funding available from Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Enterprise Tayside. Paths on which work is proposed are shown in Appendix 1. The anticipated final network is shown in Appendix 2.

5 BRECHIN PATH NETWORK

- 5.1 Consultation with landowners in the Brechin area is underway. It is anticipated that consultation with the general public will begin shortly.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Forfar

- 6.2 The cost of producing the proposed leaflet is not expected to exceed £3,000 and will be contained within the existing budget available for Phase 2 of the Forfar Path Network.

Arbroath

- 6.3 The estimated cost of Phase 2 of the Arbroath Path Network is £43,000. A contribution of £13,000 is available from Scottish Natural Heritage and a further £12,000 is available from Scottish Enterprise Tayside. The balance of £18,000 can be met from the Planning & Transport Department's updated 2002/2003 Capital Budget for Paths for All.
- 6.4 In order to meet the requirements of Scottish Natural Heritage as external funding partner this second phase of the Arbroath Network will be split into two projects and funded on the basis outlined below:-

Phase 2a

Scottish Natural Heritage	£13,000
Angus Council	£14,000
Total	£27,000

Phase 2b

Scottish Enterprise Tayside	£12,000
Angus Council	£ 4,000
Total	£16,000

The ongoing maintenance costs associated with the Paths Networks being put in place by the Council has been identified as a budget issue and will be addressed as part of the revenue budget setting process currently underway.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The creation of Path Networks has potential human rights implications in terms of Article 1 of the First Protocol (Protection of Property) and Article 8 (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life) of the Human Right Act 1998. Given the proposed use of Access Agreements and the wider public benefits, including enhancement of the rights and freedoms of others to enjoy the countryside and outdoor recreation, it is not considered that the Council would be infringing these Articles as a result of this report. In any event, the proposed actions is legitimate as it is within the Council's powers (in particular Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Development and Finance) (Scotland) Act 1963 and Section 30 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967) and proportionate.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Leisure Services and Director of Roads have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/PC/KW
19 November 2002

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport